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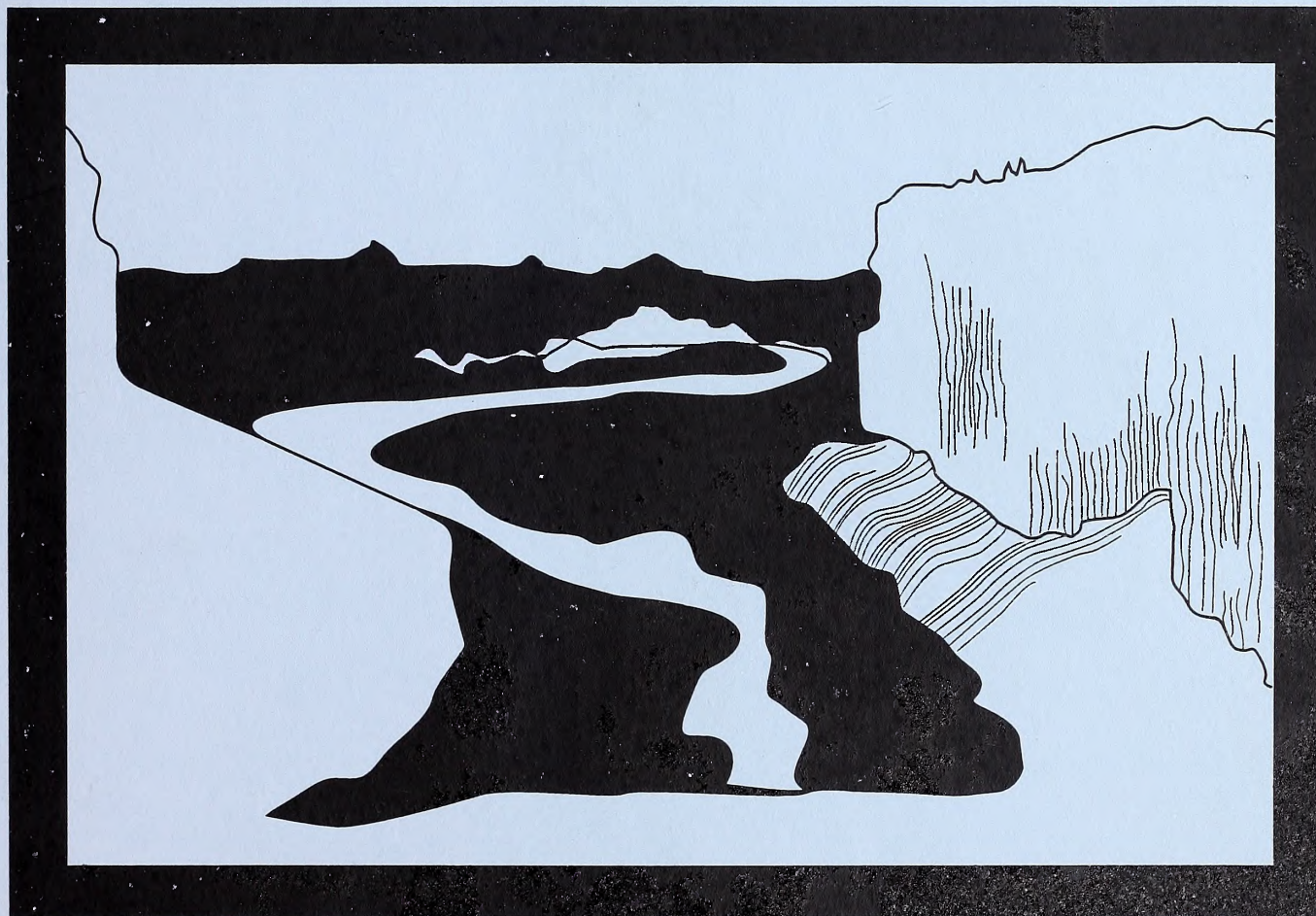
February 1997



Final

Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers

Study Report/Record of Decision



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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATEWIDE
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY
REPORT/RECORD OF DECISION

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The *Final Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report* (February 1997) is compiled from information contained in a series of planning and assessment documents. The *Study Report* represents the summary of the Bureau of Land Management's administrative record of the evaluation of potential wild and scenic rivers on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Arizona, as required in *BLM Manual 8351 - Wild and Scenic Rivers - Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management* (5/19/92). The *Study Report* was compiled by Terry O'Sullivan, Senior Technical Specialist, Outdoor Recreation, Arizona State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, Arizona.

The *Record of Decision*, signed by the Assistant Secretary of Lands and Minerals on May 29, 1996, is the Department of Interior's final suitability determination, which concurs with BLM recommendations for the designation, nonsuitability, or further study of eligible rivers evaluated in Arizona.

Supplemental information to the *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report* includes BLM resource management plans and plan amendments (as described in Section 1), suitability assessment reports (as described in Section 3), *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic River Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement* (April 1994) and appendices, *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic River Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (FLEIS)* and *FLEIS Rivers Appendix* (December 1994), transcripts from public hearings (duplicated in Chapter 5 of *FLEIS*), comments to the Draft LEIS (duplicated in Chapter 5 *FLEIS*), and *Public Review Comments to the Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement* (August 1995).

To review these supplemental data, or to obtain additional information, please contact:

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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATEWIDE
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY
RECORD OF DECISION**

May 1996

RECORD OF DECISION

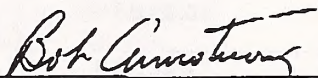
The administrative record contains wild and scenic river recommendations based on the evaluation of 20 river areas determined "eligible" by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Arizona through the resource management planning process. The alternatives for each river area were analyzed in the Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement. The findings are summarized in the Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report.

Based on my review of these documents, I have concluded that 13 river areas, containing 25 segments, approximately 233.5 river miles, and 65,516 acres of public lands managed by the BLM are "suitable" and I am recommending they be designated by Congress as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Tables ROD-1 and ROD-2 outlined in detail the total number of segments and river miles, recommended classifications, and land ownership within the river corridor, including acres of federal lands affected by this decision.

In addition, I am recommending to Congress that the Virgin River, from its headwater tributaries in Zion National Park, Utah flowing through Arizona and ending at Lake Mead, Nevada be authorized for study under Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. I am recommending this study be led by the BLM in consultation with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and all affected interests, publics, and other agencies in the region. All eligible river areas of the Virgin River and its major tributaries administered by the Department of Interior, in Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, will remain under protective management to protect identified outstandingly remarkable river values until completion of the study, recommendation, and subsequent decision is rendered.

The remaining portions of eligible river areas in Arizona, summarized in Tables ROD-3 and ROD-4 are determined "unsuitable," not recommended for designation and hereby released from wild and scenic river consideration. Henceforth, these river areas will be managed in accordance with resource management objectives in the appropriate BLM resource management plan.

The Arizona Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report and Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for each river area accompany this decision. The documents include river corridor maps and detailed descriptions of all river areas and individual river segments evaluated by BLM for possible inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.


Assistant Secretary, LMM

5-29-76
Date

TABLE ROD-1

SUITABLE RIVER SEGMENTS BY CLASSIFICATION¹
 (approximate river mileage)

RIVER AREA NAME	AFFECTED SEGMENTS (#)	RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION			TOTAL (mi.)
		WILD (mi.)	SCENIC (mi.)	RECREATIONAL (mi.)	
Virgin River	3	2.9	7.3	24.3	34.5
Paria River	1	28.0	0	0	28.0
Big Sandy River	1	9.2	0	0	9.2
Burro Creek	4	24.2	0	0	24.2
Bill Williams River	3	14.0	5.0	0	19.0
Santa Maria River	1	17.6	0	0	17.6
Agua Fria River	3	10.3	12.1	0	22.4
Gila River (Middle)	1	0	0	7.5	7.5
Aravaipa Creek	1	10.0	0	0	10.0
Bonita Creek	1	0	0	8.1	8.1
Lower San Francisco	2	0	0	6.4	6.4
Gila River (Gila Box)	3	0	15.2	11.4	26.6
Cienega Creek	2	0	10.5	0	10.5
San Pedro River	2	0	0	44.0	44.0
Totals	28	116.2 (43%)	50.1 (19%)	101.7 (38%)	268.0

TABLE ROD-2

SUITABLE RIVER CORRIDORS BY LAND OWNERSHIP
 (approximate acreage)

RIVER AREA NAME	FEDERAL	STATE/LOCAL	PRIVATE	TOTAL
Virgin River	9,344	64	1,632	11,040
Paria River	8,960	0	0	8,960
Big Sandy	2,190	0	730	2,920
Burro Creek	7,010	0	480	7,490
Bill Williams	4,650	703	684	6,037
Santa Maria River	4,840	0	610	5,450
Agua Fria River	6,710	0	450	7,160
Gila River (Middle)	1,780	330	220	2,330
Aravaipa Creek	3,200	0	0	3,200
Bonita Creek	1,810	0	490	2,300
Lower San Francisco	1,450	0	570	2,020
Gila River (Gila Box)	7,460	0	500	7,960
Cienega Creek	3,200	160	0	3,360
San Pedro River	12,256	0	1,840	14,096
Totals	74,860 (89%)	1,257 (1%)	8,206 (10%)	84,323

¹ River areas in which recommended classifications differ from tentative classifications indicated in bold type.

TABLE ROD-3

TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATIONS IN NONSUITABLE RIVER SEGMENTS
(approximate river miles)

RIVER AREA NAME	AFFECTED SEGMENTS (#)	TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION			TOTAL (mi.)
		WILD (mi.)	SCENIC (mi.)	RECREATIONAL (mi.)	
Wright Creek	1	0	13.0	0	13.0
Francis Creek	1	0	0	11.4	11.4
Big Sandy River	1	0	18.7	0	18.7
Burro Creek	3	5.8	13.5	7.1	26.4
Bill Williams River	2	1.5	0	0	1.5
Santa Maria River	3	3.4	17.8	0	21.2
Hassayampa River	3	16.4	17.0	0	33.4
Gila River (Middle)	1	12.5	0	12.0	24.5
Turkey Creek	1	0	0	3.2	3.2
Bonita Creek	1	0	0	6.9	6.9
Lower San Francisco	1	0	0	1.6	1.6
Swamp Springs Canyon	1	2.5	0	0	2.5
Hot Springs Canyon	1	6.0	0	0	6.0
San Pedro River	1	0	0	2.0	2.0
Totals	19	48.1 (28%)	80.0 (46%)	44.2 (26%)	172.3

TABLE ROD-4

LAND OWNERSHIP IN NONSUITABLE RIVER CORRIDORS
(approximate acres)

RIVER AREA NAME	FEDERAL	STATE/LOCAL	PRIVATE	TOTAL
Wright Creek	3,861	0	171	4,032
Francis Creek	1,360	560	1,720	3,640
Big Sandy River	2,030	0	3,780	5,810
Burro Creek	2,450	2,840	2,870	8,160
Bill Williams River	480	0	0	480
Santa Maria River	2,160	2,490	1,820	6,470
Hassayampa River	6,386	400	2,044	8,830
Gila River (Middle)	4,350	550	1,285	6,185
Turkey Creek	1,100	0	0	1,100
Bonita Creek	1,760	480	0	2,240
Lower San Francisco	421	0	23	444
Swamp Springs Canyon	640	160	0	800
Hot Springs Canyon	1,600	160	160	1,920
San Pedro River	0	0	606	606
Totals	28,598 (56%)	7,640 (15%)	14,479 (29%)	50,717

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
FINAL
ARIZONA STATEWIDE
WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
STUDY REPORT
February 1997

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF PROCESS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report culminates the administrative evaluation of potential wild and scenic rivers on lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Arizona. Evaluations in Arizona were initiated in 1986 with the initial inventory of rivers, as part of the BLM resource management planning process. This was initiated in response to Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) which requires federal agencies to consider potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas in planning documents. During the next several years, all resource management plans determined eligibility and established tentative classifications.

In May 1991, the Arizona Rivers Coalition published a document titled *Arizona Rivers-Lifblood of the Desert-A Citizens Proposal for the Protection of Rivers In Arizona*. The proposal recommends 40 river areas, totaling approximately 1,700 river miles throughout Arizona to be designated and included in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Of the 40 rivers included in this proposal, 15 river areas were at least partially under BLM administration.

At the time the "citizens' proposal" was published, BLM had already initiated the evaluation process and determined eligibility on most of the rivers in the report. However, suitability evaluations had been deferred in resource management plans on all of rivers areas, with the exception of the Paria River. These determinations were deferred because BLM managers felt that due to the complexity of the issue, additional effort was needed to adequately involve the public in the evaluation process. There was, however, no schedule to complete the evaluations on these river areas.

In July 1991, the Director of the BLM received a letter signed by the Arizona Congressional Delegation inquiring about the status of Wild and Scenic River evaluations on public lands. During 1992, BLM Arizona engaged in several conversations with Congressional staff in regard to completion of river evaluations. Early in 1993, BLM participated with the delegation and other federal agencies in 5 Congressional information meetings on wild and scenic rivers, held throughout the state. The delegation eventually requested that the process be accelerated to complete eligibility and suitability evaluations by the end of Fiscal Year 1994. Additional funding was directed to BLM Arizona for that purpose for Fiscal Years 1993 and 1994.

The State Director had three options for completing wild and scenic river evaluations for BLM Rivers. First, resource management plan amendments could be completed for six separate planning areas by four separate district planning teams. Second, a statewide resource management plan amendment could be completed by a single team to serve as a basis to amend six separate planning area documents. Individual study reports and environmental analyses would be developed for each river recommended for designation. Third, a legislative environmental impact statement could be prepared by a core planning team and forwarded with a record of decision to be signed by the Secretary of the Interior. A statewide wild and scenic river study report would accompany the legislative environmental impact statement. The third

Secretary of the Interior. A statewide wild and scenic river study report would accompany the legislative environmental impact statement. The third option was selected as the most efficient, the most cost effective, the most responsive to the delegation and the least impact on field level personnel and programs. It also provided the best option to involve the public in the statewide analysis of impacts of designation or nondesignation of BLM rivers. The State Director committed to the Arizona Congressional Delegation to complete evaluations and environmental impact statements by December 1994.

BLM determined 20 river areas (40 segments totaling 442 river miles) eligible for potential inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System. BLM first prepared for the Arizona Congressional delegation suitability evaluations on each of the 20 river areas. These suitability assessments, completed in September 1993, established the basis for the range of alternatives to be further analyzed in the environmental impact statements.

Full analyses of alternatives and impacts were conducted during 1994, with the completion of a *Draft*, and then a *Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (DLEIS and FLEIS)*. During the process, BLM held 14 scoping meetings, released approximately 1500 copies of the DLEIS for public review, held five public hearings and received more than 160 written responses to the DLEIS. Public comments throughout the process have focused on issues such as impacts on mining, private lands, socioeconomic, water rights, land activities outside of protected areas, and whether overlapping federal designations are needed for these riparian areas, and the need to protect remaining riparian areas in Arizona's desert environment. Section 6 of this study report contains a summary of the public involvement process. The FLEIS was issued in December 1994, and was subject to public review during January 1995. The written comments are found in an accompanying document, *FLEIS Public Review Comments (August 1995)*.

In May 1996, BLM forwarded to the Assistant Secretary of Interior, Lands and Minerals Management, a *Draft Wild and Scenic River Study Report* which recommended 25 river segments in 13 rivers areas, totaling 235.1 river miles and 65,516 acres of public lands for designation and inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In addition, the BLM recommended that Congress should authorize the federally administered segments of the Virgin River and several tributaries, in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, as a study river, under Section 5(a) of the WSRA due to the complexity and controversy of the issue associated with the entire watershed. Thirty-four and a half river miles of the Virgin River, including 9,344 acres of public land in Arizona, would remain under protective management until such time that Congress takes action on the Secretary of Interior's final recommendation.

On May 29, 1996, the Assistant Secretary concurred with BLM's recommendations and signed the final suitability determination decision, which accompanies this *Study Report*. Section 4 of this *Study Report* provides additional details about those river areas in Arizona recommended for designation or additional study.

SECTION 1

LOCATION/DESCRIPTION OF STUDY AREAS

The river areas described in this study are located in Arizona and are primarily under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management. The river areas were determined "eligible" for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System during the resource management planning process in four BLM districts (Refer to Table 1-1).

The "eligible river study areas" determined in BLM planning documents totaled approximately 135,000 acres. Of the eligible river areas, federally administered lands amounted to approximately 103,000 acres. The rivers considered for designation flow within 12 counties in the State of Arizona. In addition, the river study areas fall within 8 State Legislative districts and 3 Congressional Districts (refer to Table 1-2 and *FLEIS Rivers Appendix* for specific details). Most of the river areas fall within the Basin and Range Physiographic province, while the Paria River lies within the Colorado Plateau Physiographic Province, as described in the Nationwide River Inventory. Map 1-1 illustrates the general location of each of the river areas in Arizona. Refer to the *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers FLEIS (December 1994)* for statewide statistical information and the *Rivers Appendix (December 1994)* for detailed information on each river area.

Non-federal lands are not included in BLM's recommendation for designation, although the State of Arizona could include their portions of the recommended river areas in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through passage of an act of the legislature and submitting an application to the Secretary of the Interior, under Section 2(a)(ii) of the WSR. Refer to the Section 5 for acreage by river area and the *FLEIS Rivers Appendix* for specific details on acreage of river areas and segments.

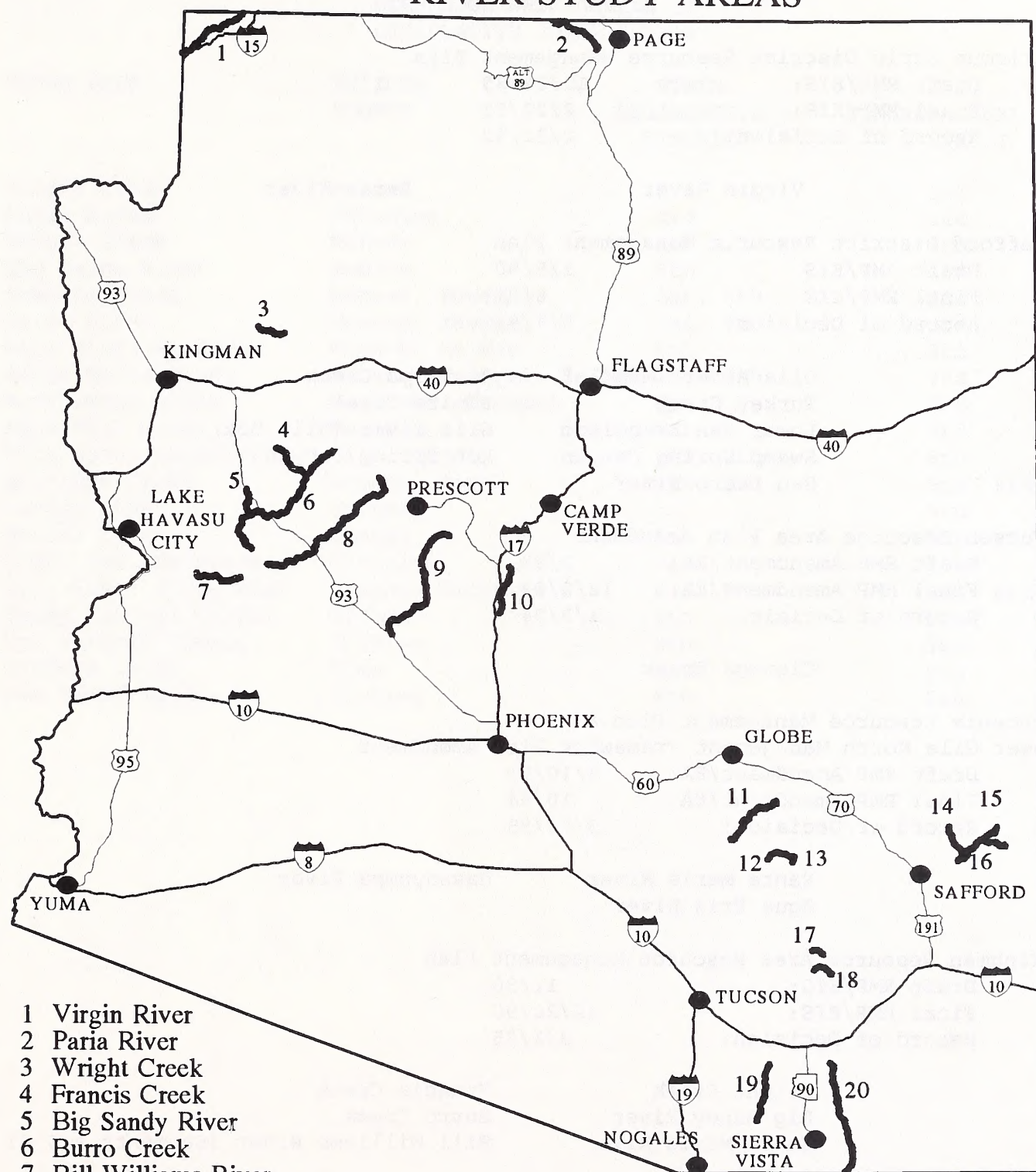
Joint agency evaluations were considered in January 1992 in discussions with the Arizona Congressional Delegation, the National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding combining statewide studies and schedules. The BLM had already initiated wild and scenic river evaluations in the resource management planning process, as had the National Park Service in the Grand Canyon National Park General Management Plan. However, the USFS had not yet initiated eligibility determinations on river areas within the six National Forests in Arizona, and therefore could only prepare Resource Information Reports on those river areas during the two-year time frame requested by the delegation. For these reasons, BLM responded to the delegation request to "accelerate the wild and scenic river evaluation process" by doing so for BLM river areas only. As a result, BLM was able to complete the wild and scenic river evaluations for BLM river areas within the time period requested by the delegation.

The Paria River was the only river area where the evaluation of eligibility and suitability was previously conducted with other agencies. In the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan, the portion of the Paria River from the Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs (PC-VC) Wilderness boundary, 4 miles north of the Arizona/Utah state line, to the confluence with the Colorado River in

Glen Canyon National Recreation Area was evaluated. The portion determined eligible and suitable includes the 32 miles within the PC-VC Wilderness (BLM in Arizona and Utah) and the 3 river miles within Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (NPS in Arizona). The FLEIS reevaluated the alternatives and impacts for the 28-mile segment under BLM Arizona administration so that a complete and consistent environmental analysis of all BLM eligible river areas in Arizona was available for the Arizona Congressional delegation. Although BLM Arizona only includes the BLM Arizona portion of the Paria River in the statewide assessment, Congress could consider designation of the 35-mile portion of Paria River from the northern boundary of the PC-VC Wilderness downstream to the confluence with the Colorado River.

MAP 1-1

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RIVER STUDY AREAS



- 1 Virgin River
- 2 Paria River
- 3 Wright Creek
- 4 Francis Creek
- 5 Big Sandy River
- 6 Burro Creek
- 7 Bill Williams River
- 8 Santa Maria River
- 9 Hassayampa River
- 10 Agua Fria River
- 11 Gila River (Middle)
- 12 Aravaipa Creek
- 13 Turkey Creek
- 14 Bonita Creek

- 15 Lower San Francisco River
- 16 Gila River (Gila Box)
- 17 Swamp Springs Canyon
- 18 Hot Springs Canyon
- 19 Cienega Creek
- 20 San Pedro River

TABLE 1-1
BLM RIVER STUDY AREAS
BY PLANNING DOCUMENT

•Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan

Draft RMP/EIS: 11/26/89
Final RMP/EIS: 2/22/91
Record of Decision: 1/31/92

Virgin River

Paria River

•Safford District Resource Management Plan

Draft RMP/EIS 1/5/90
Final RMP/EIS 8/91
Record of Decision: 9/7/94

Gila River (Middle)

Aravaipa Creek

Turkey Creek

Bonita Creek

Lower San Francisco

Gila River (Gila Box)

Swamp Spring Canyon

Hot Spring Canyon

San Pedro River

•Tucson Resource Area Plan Amendment

Draft RMP Amendment/EA: 7/93
Final RMP Amendment/EA: 12/2/93
Record of Decision: 1/9/94

Cienega Creek

•Phoenix Resource Management Plan &

Lower Gila North Management Framework Plan Amendment

Draft RMP Amendment/EA: 5/10/93
Final RMP Amendment/EA: 10/94
Record of Decision: 3/16/95

Santa Maria River

Hassayampa River

Agua Fria River

•Kingman Resource Area Resource Management Plan

Draft RMP/EIS: 11/90
Final RMP/EIS: 12/20/90
Record of Decision: 3/1/95

Wright Creek

Francis Creek

Big Sandy River

Burro Creek

Santa Maria River

Bill Williams River (Segments A & B)

•Yuma District Resource Management Plan Amendment

Draft RMP Plan Amendment/EA: 7/9/93
Final RMP Plan Amendment/EA: 3/94
Record of Decision: 8/94/94

Bill Williams River (Segment C)

TABLE 1-2
BLM RIVER STUDY AREAS BY
LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION

RIVER AREA	ARIZONA COUNTY	STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT	U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Virgin River	Mohave	3rd	3rd
Paria River	Coconino	3rd	3rd
Wright Creek	Mohave	2nd	3rd
Big Sandy River	Mohave	5th	3rd
Francis Creek	Mohave, Yavapai	1st, 5th	3rd
Burro Creek	Mohave, Yavapai	1st, 5th	3rd
Bill Williams River	Mohave, La Paz	5th	3rd
Santa Maria River	Mohave, Yavapai, La Paz	1st, 5th	3rd
Hassayampa River	Maricopa, Yavapai	1st	3rd
Agua Fria River	Yavapai	1st	3rd
Gila River (Middle)	Gila, Pinal	4th, 7th	6th
Aravaipa Creek	Graham, Pinal	4th, 8th	5th, 6th
Turkey Creek	Graham	8th	5th
Bonita Creek	Graham	8th	5th
Lower San Francisco	Greenlee	4th	6th
Gila River (Gila Box)	Graham, Greenlee	4th, 8th	5th, 6th
Swamp Springs Canyon	Graham	8th	5th
Hot Springs Canyon	Cochise	8th	5th
Cienega Creek	Pima	11th	5th
San Pedro River	Cochise	8th	5th

SECTION 2

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS

The BLM has fulfilled the requirements of Section 5(d) of the WSRA by considering potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas through the resource management planning process. Rivers identified for evaluation were first subject to eligibility determinations. The basis for an "eligible" determination is that the river segment(s) must be "free-flowing" and must possess at least one river related-value considered to be outstandingly remarkable. No other factors are considered in determining the eligibility of a river segment.

BLM conducted eligibility determinations for river areas in Arizona from 1986 to 1994 in six separate planning efforts, as identified in Table 1-1. For each river determined eligible, tentative classifications (wild, scenic, or recreational) of individual river segments and protective management prescriptions were assigned to protect free-flowing and river related values, and to protect from modifications which would impact the tentative classification. Protective management of eligible river areas begins when river segments are identified as "eligible" in the published draft planning document. Protective management continues until the river area is determined unsuitable and a record of decision is signed, or Congress acts on the suitability determination and designation recommendation.

By August 1994, BLM-Arizona determined 442 river miles in twenty river areas as "eligible.". BLM tentatively classified 14 river segments totaling 188 river miles as "wild," 11 river segments totaling 127 miles as "scenic," and seven river segments, totaling 127 miles as "recreational." Table 2-1 identifies the 20 river areas which were determined to be "free-flowing" and have at least one river related outstandingly remarkable value by the resource specialists and authorized officers. The number of river segments and river mileage by tentative classification are summarized for each river area on Table 2-1. The outstandingly remarkable values identified for each river area are summarized in Table 2-2.

Maps 2-1 through 2-20 are maps of the individual river areas indicating the "eligible river areas," segments and tentative classifications. Additional details on eligibility determinations can be found in the resource management plans and plan amendments identified in Table 1-1.

In various tables within the resource management plans and amendments, the suitability assessment reports, and the *DLEIS*, the *FLEIS*, the *FLEIS Rivers Appendix*, and this *Study Report*, the reader may find minor differences in numbers of segments and river miles in some river areas. Several reasons contribute to these differences. First, in each step of the evaluation process (identification, eligibility evaluation, suitability evaluation, and environmental impact assessment), the interdisciplinary teams involved in preparing the analyses have refined the number of river miles based on the degree of analysis. Second, in some cases, boundaries between segments have been adjusted to more appropriate division lines between segments. Third, in some cases, segments have been split or combined since eligibility.

And fourth, in the alternatives presented in the *FLEIS* and *FLEIS Rivers Appendix*, the "eligible study river area" includes all federal, state, and private lands, while the alternatives enumerate only public land miles and acres under BLM administration.

This Study Report presents total river miles, and breaks down mileage by land ownership and classification for eligible, recommended for designation, and nonsuitable river areas. In a similar manner, information is presented on acreage for federal, state and local, and private ownership within the study corridor, although recommendations for designation would affect only federal lands.

TABLE 2-1
ELIGIBLE RIVER AREAS

RIVER AREA NAME	SEGMENTS (#)	TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION			TOTAL (mi.)
		WILD (mi.)	SCENIC (mi.)	RECREATIONAL (mi.)	
Virgin River	4	2.9	7.3	24.3	34.5
Paria River ²	1	28.0			28.0
Wright Creek	1		13.0		13.0
Francis Creek	1			11.4	11.4
Big Sandy River	2	9.2	18.7		27.9
Burro Creek	5	31.0	13.5	7.1	51.6
Bill Williams River ³	3	16.0	5.1		21.1
Santa Maria River	2	21.0	17.8		38.8
Hassayampa River	3	16.4	17.0		33.4
Agua Fria River	3	14.7	7.7		22.4
Gila River (Middle)	3	12.5		19.5	32.0
Aravaipa Creek	1	10.0			10.0
Turkey Creek	1			3.2	3.2
Bonita Creek	1			15.0	15.0
Lower San Francisco	2	3.0	5.0		8.0
Gila River (Gila Box)	3	15.2	11.4		26.6
Swamp Springs Canyon	1	2.5			2.5
Hot Springs Canyon	1	6.0			6.0
Cienega Creek	2		10.5		10.5
San Pedro River	2			46.0	46.0
Totals ⁴	40	188.4	127.0	126.5	441.9

Data Source: Table 1 (Eligibility and Tentative Classification) compiled from each Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment Report; BLM Arizona (1993).

² Other segments of Paria River managed by National Park Service in Arizona (3.0 river miles tentatively classified as "scenic") and the BLM in Utah (4.0 river miles tentatively classified as "wild") have also been determined eligible and suitable in the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan. Only the BLM Arizona segments of the Paria River are addressed in this report.

³ Eligibility for different segments of the Bill Williams River was determined in two separate BLM planning efforts; Kingman Resource Area Management Plan and Yuma District Plan Amendment. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined the lower 9.5 miles of the Bill Williams River on the Bill Williams Refuge to also be eligible.

⁴The total rivers miles determined eligible differs slightly from the total river miles determined suitable and unsuitable due to refinement of measurements of individual segments through the source of the evaluation process. All mileages are approximate.

TABLE 2-2

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

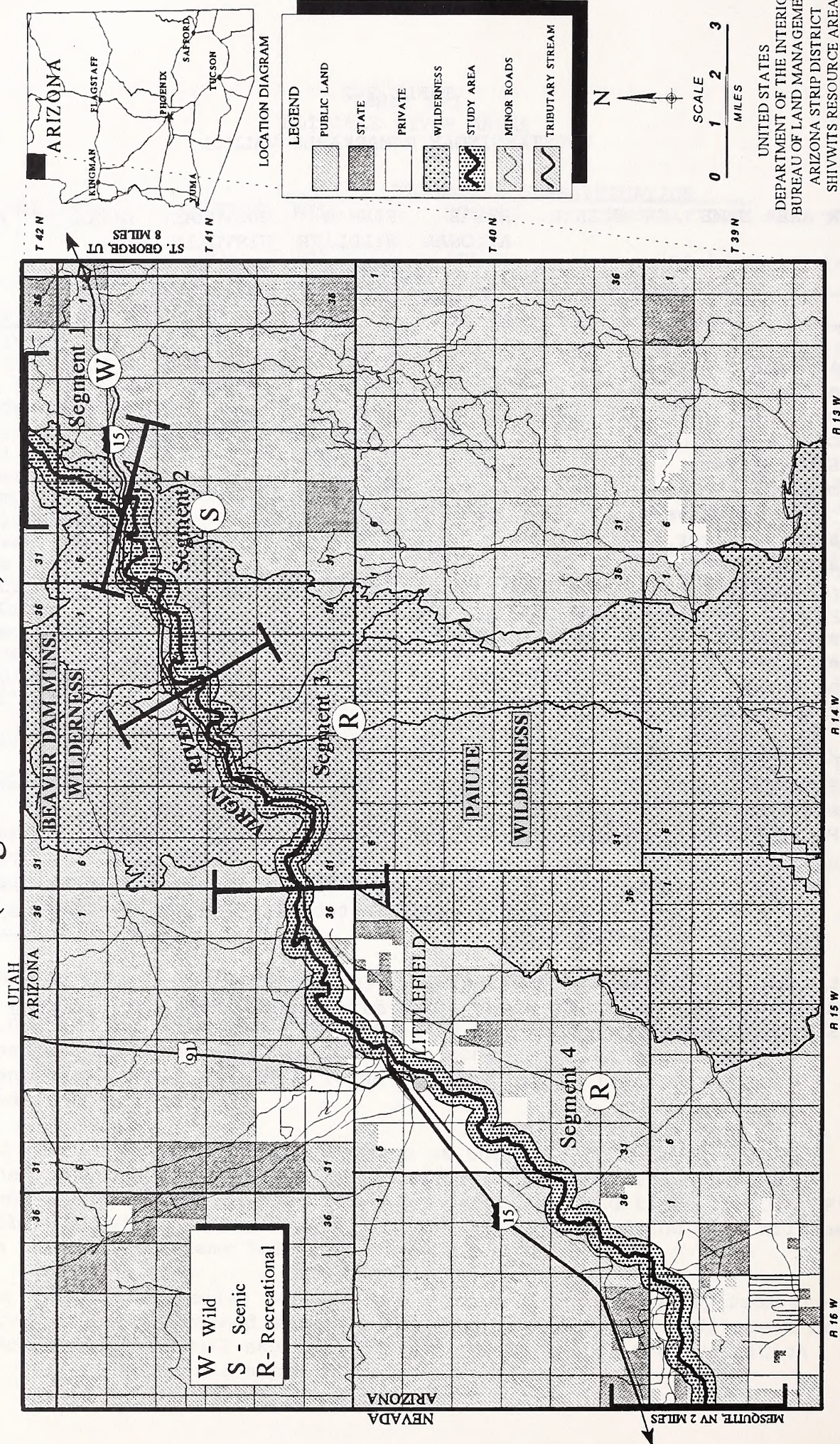
RIVER AREA NAME	SCENIC	RECRE- ATIONAL	FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT	CULTURAL, HISTORIC, PALEON- TOLOGIC	GEOLOGIC	AQUATIC, HYDROL- OGIC
Virgin River	X	X	X		X	X
Paria River	X	X	X	X	X	
Wright Creek			X	X		
Francis Creek	X		X			
Big Sandy River	X		X			
Burro Creek	X	X	X	X		
Bill Williams River	X	X	X			
Santa Maria River	X		X			
Hassayampa River	X		X			
Agua Fria River	X		X	X		
Gila River (Middle)	X		X			
Aravaipa Creek	X	X	X			X
Turkey Creek	X	X		X		
Bonita Creek			X	X		X
Lower San Francisco	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gila River (Gila Box)	X	X	X	X	X	
Swamp Springs Canyon			X			
Hot Springs Canyon			X			
Cienega Creek			X			
San Pedro River	X	X	X	X		

Data Source: FLEIS; pg. 12; Table 1-1 (Outstandingly Remarkable Values)
Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment Reports; BLM
Arizona (1993).

Additional discussions on outstandingly remarkable values can be found in resource planning documents, individual suitability assessment reports and FLEIS Rivers Appendix.

VIRGIN RIVER

(Eligible River Area)



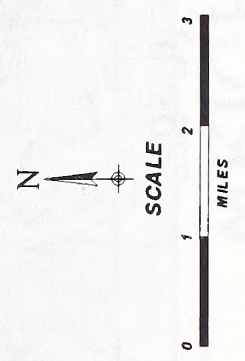
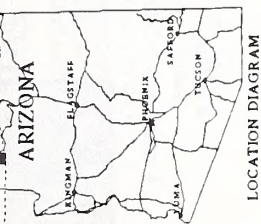
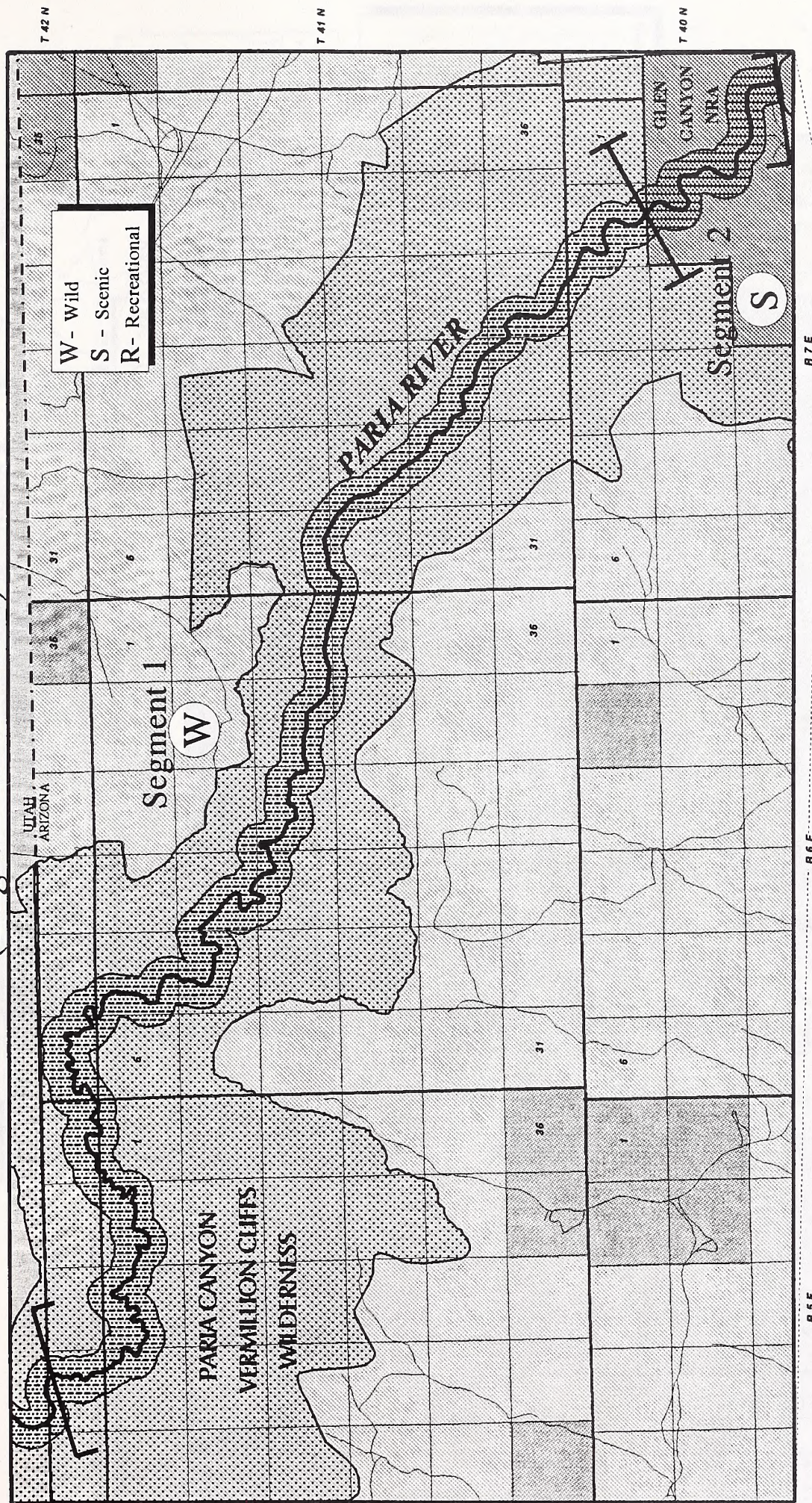
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT
SHIVWITS RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-1

PARIA RIVER

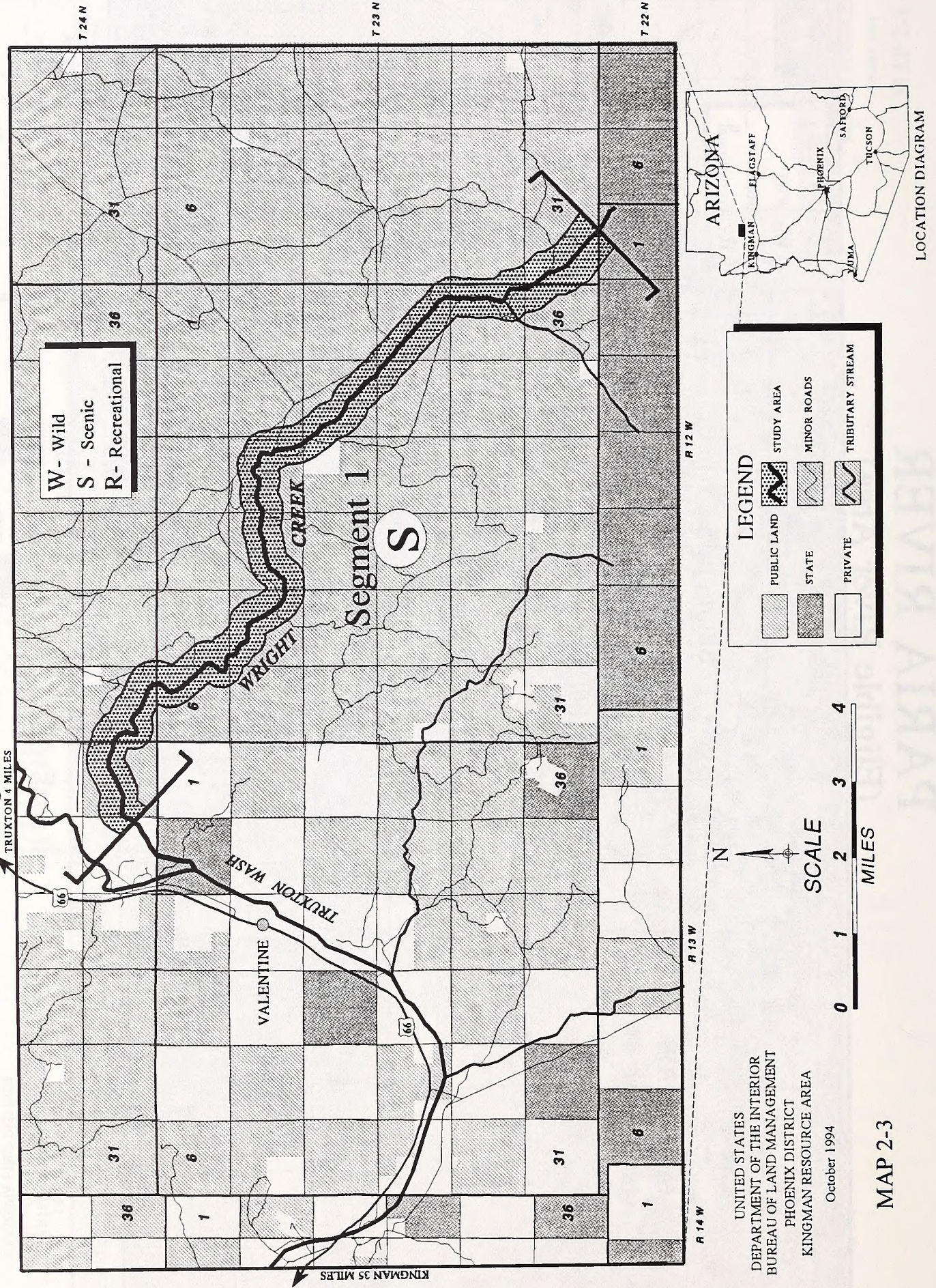
(Eligible River Area)



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ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT
VERMILION RESOURCE AREA
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MAP 2-2

WRIGHT CREEK

(Eligible River Area)



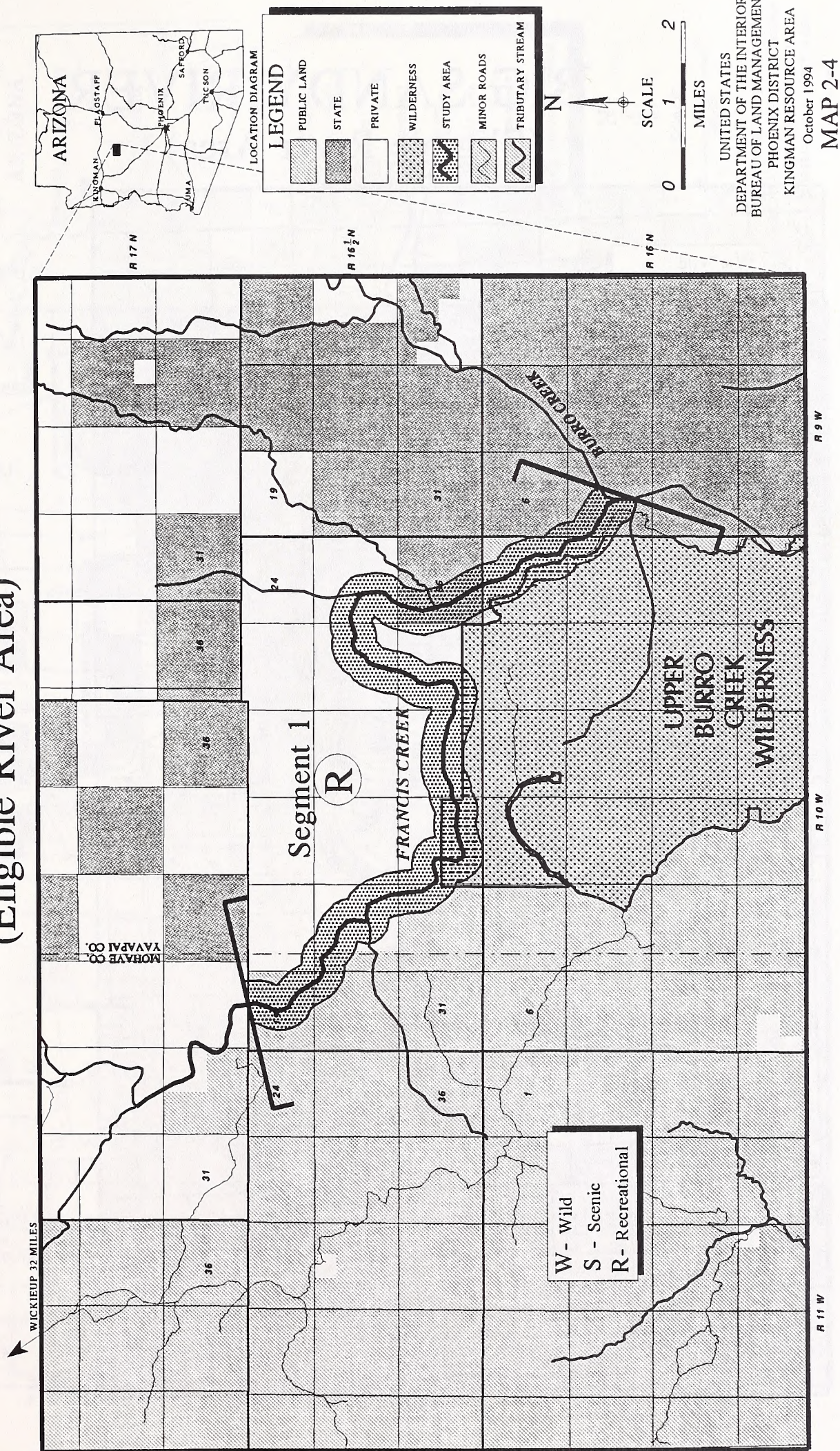
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-3

FRANCIS CREEK

(Eligible River Area)



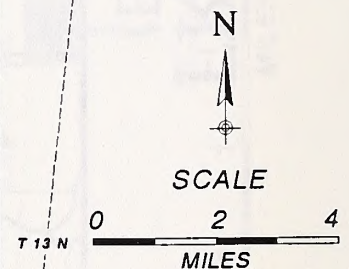
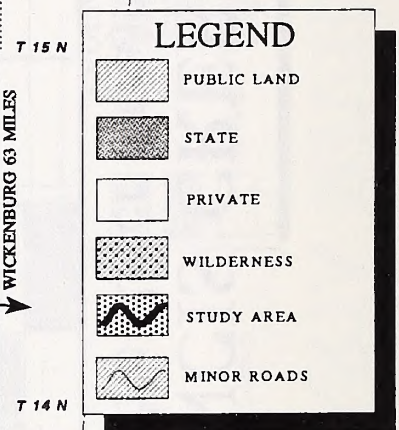
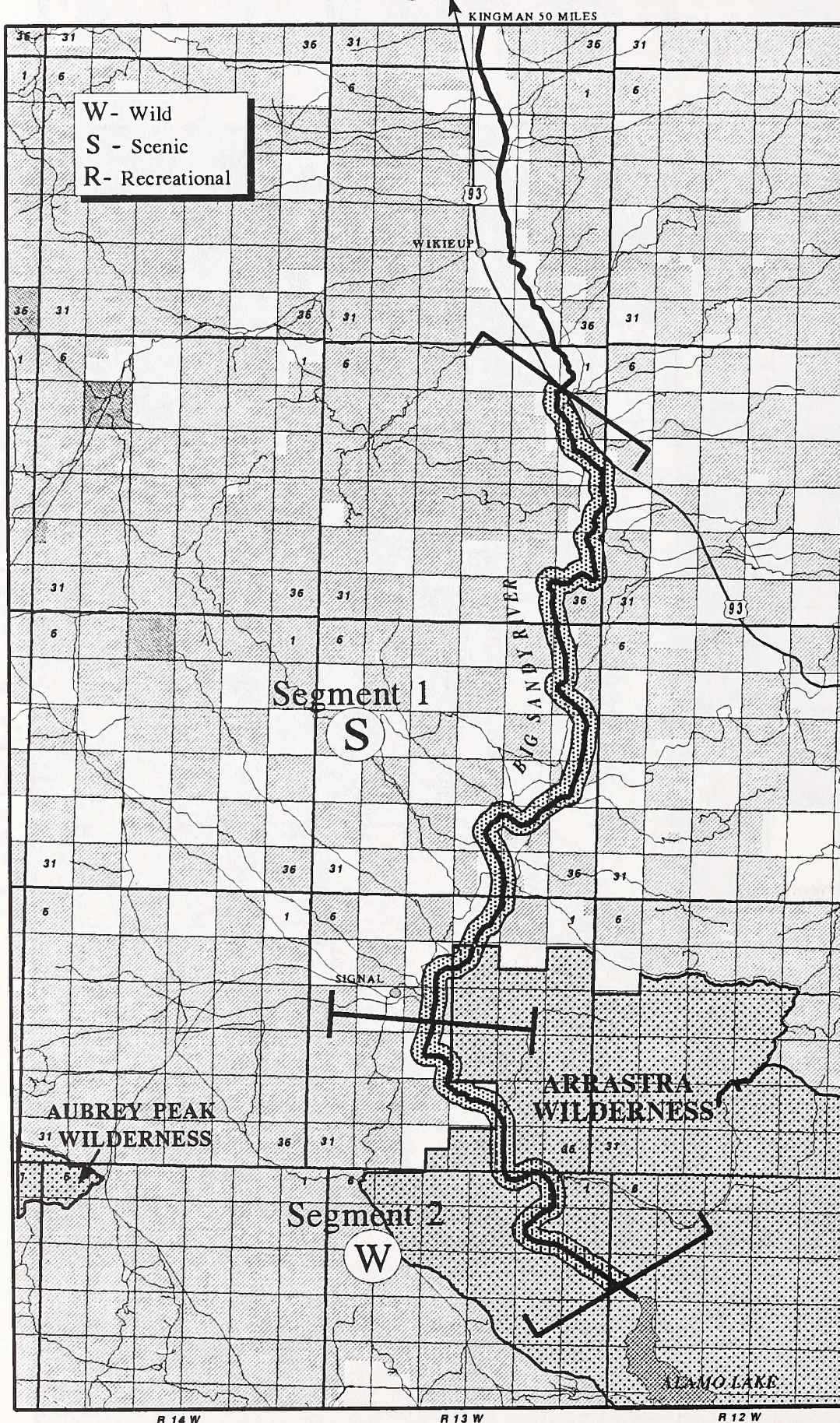
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-4

BIG SANDY RIVER

(Eligible River Area)



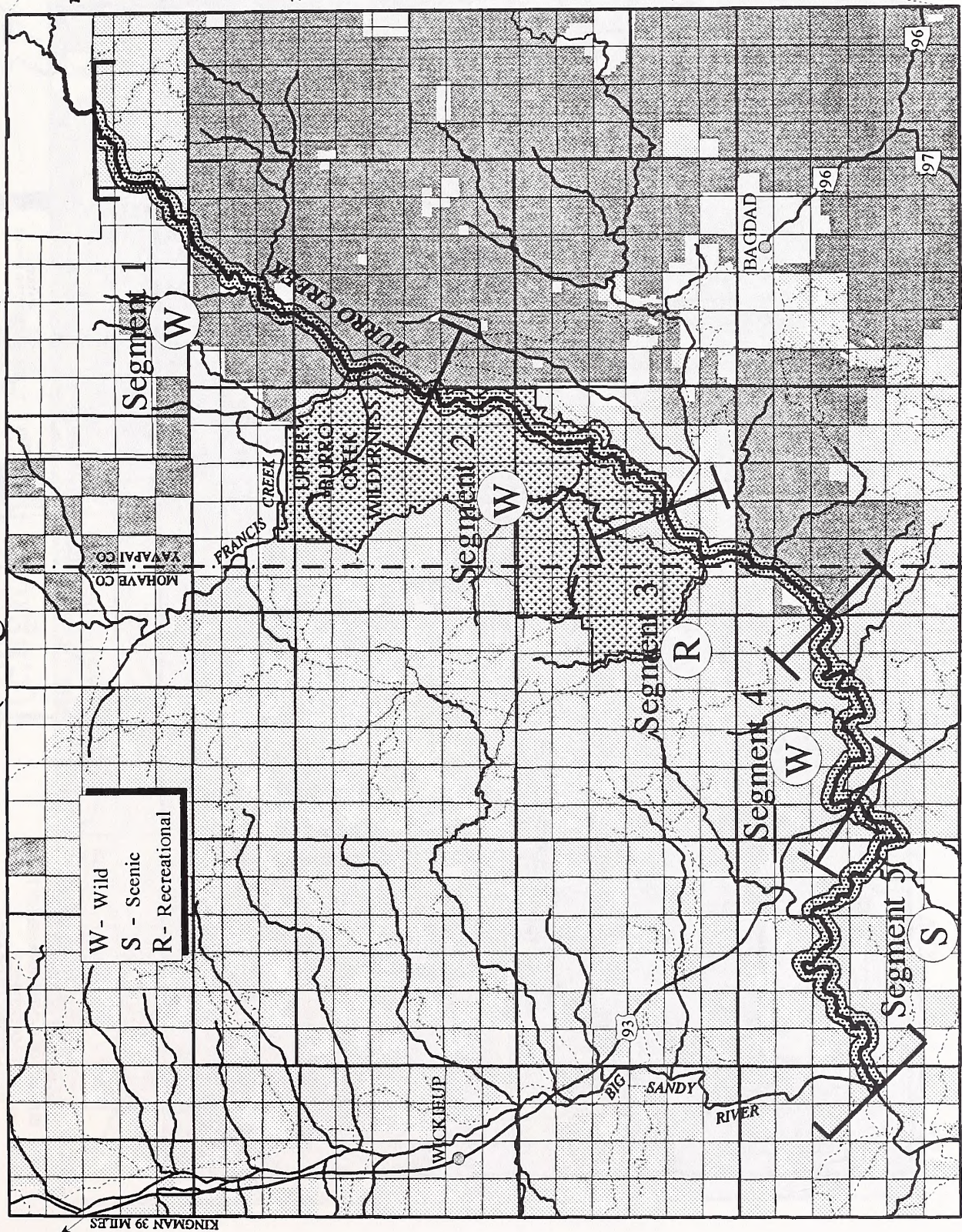
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

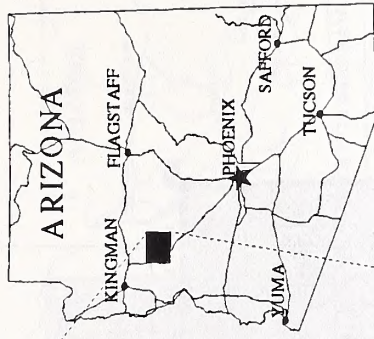
MAP 2-5

BURRO CREEK

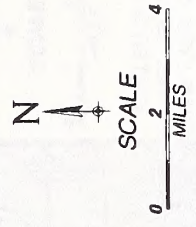
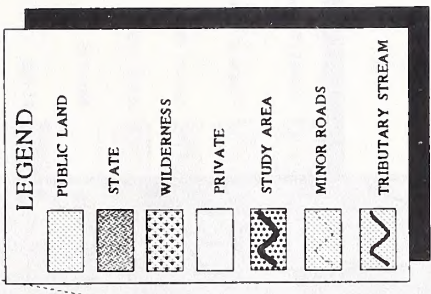
(Eligible River Area)



W - Wild
S - Scenic
R - Recreational



LOCATION DIAGRAM



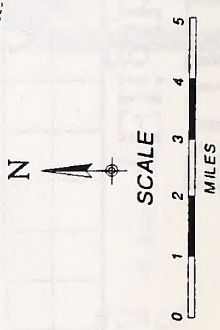
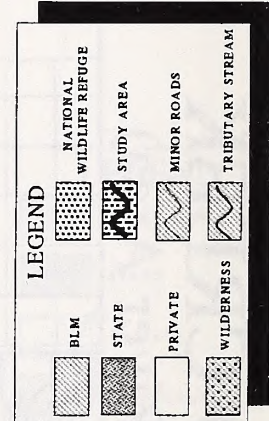
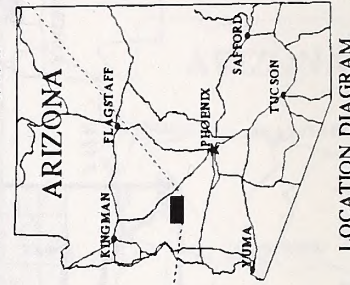
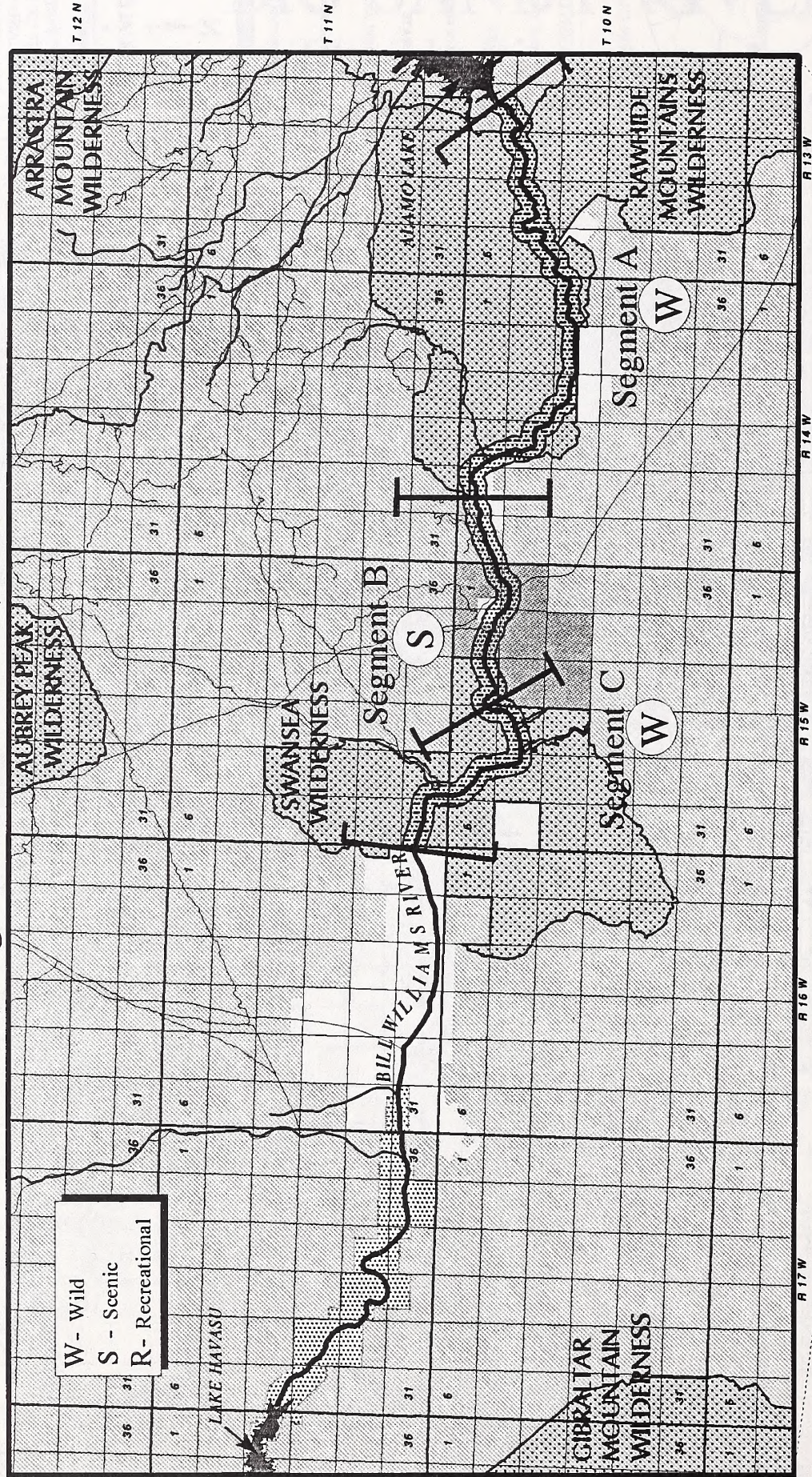
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-6

BILL WILLIAMS RIVER

(Eligible River Area)



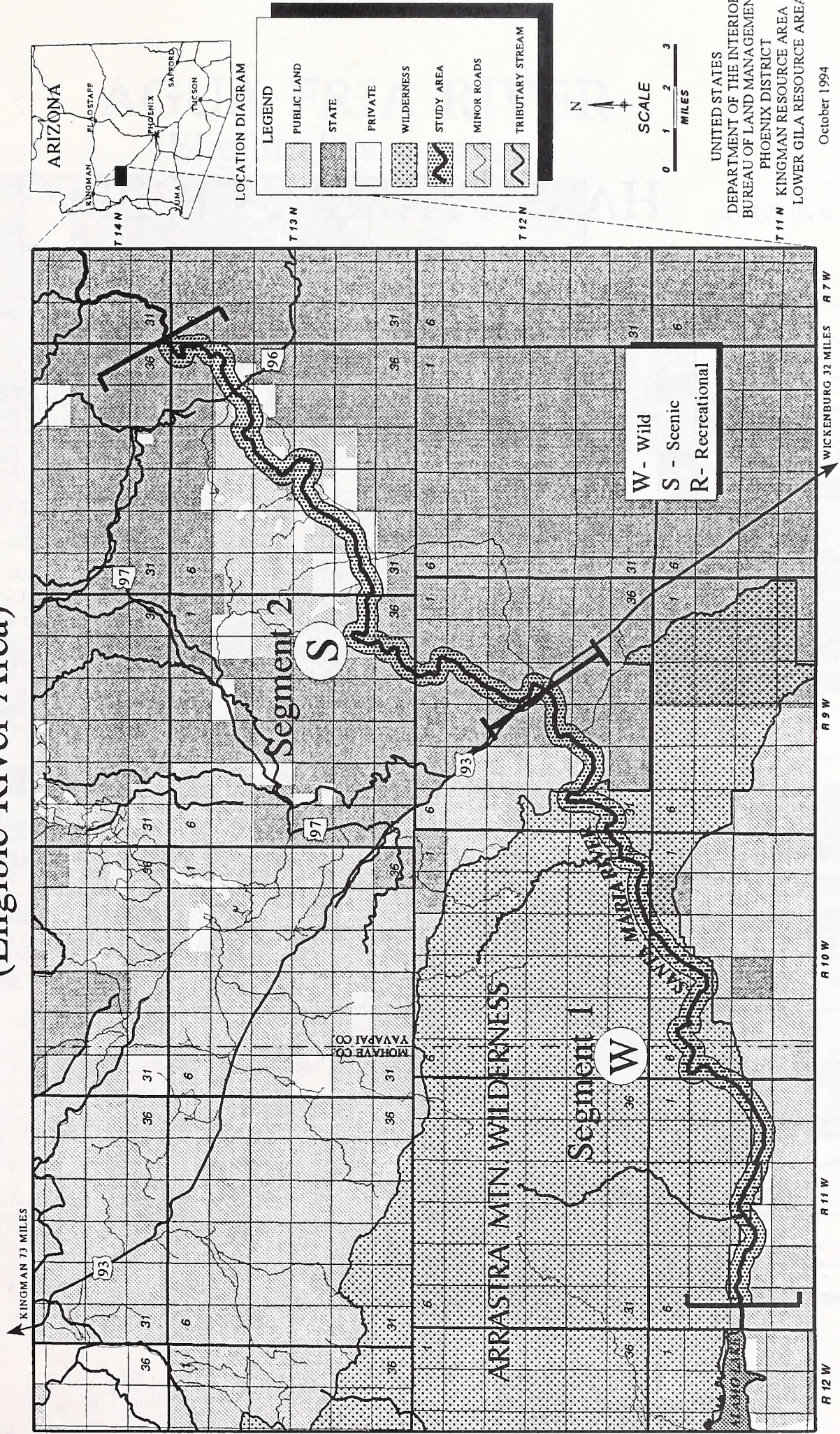
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT
HAVASU RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-7

SANTA MARIA RIVER

(Eligible River Area)



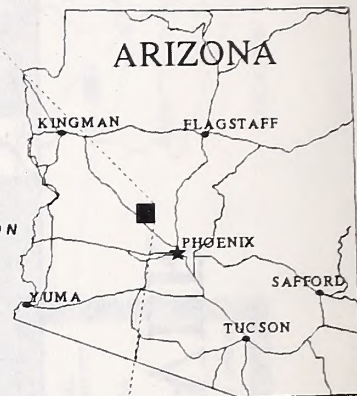
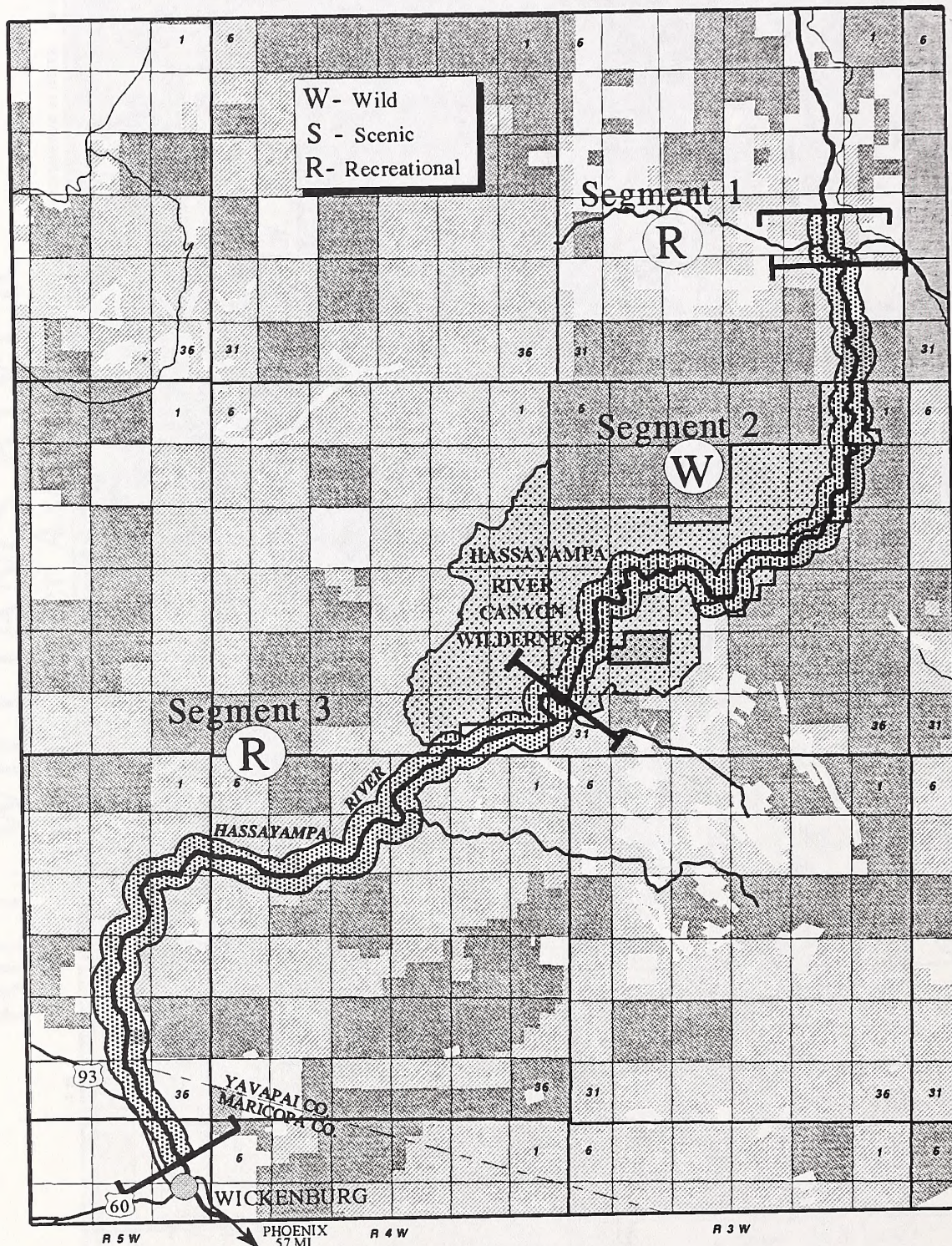
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA
LOWER GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

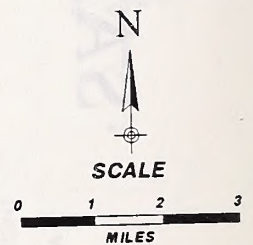
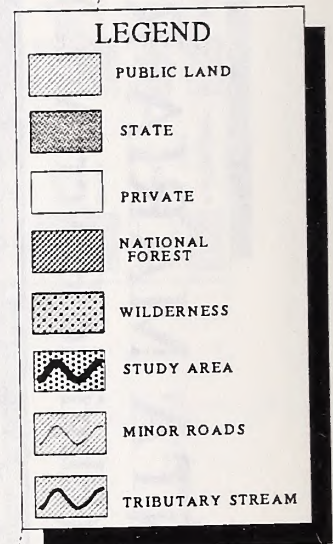
MAP 2-8

HASSAYAMPA RIVER

(Eligible River Area)



LOCATION DIAGRAM

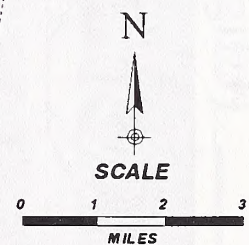
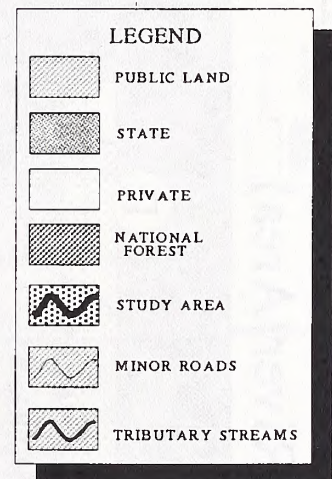
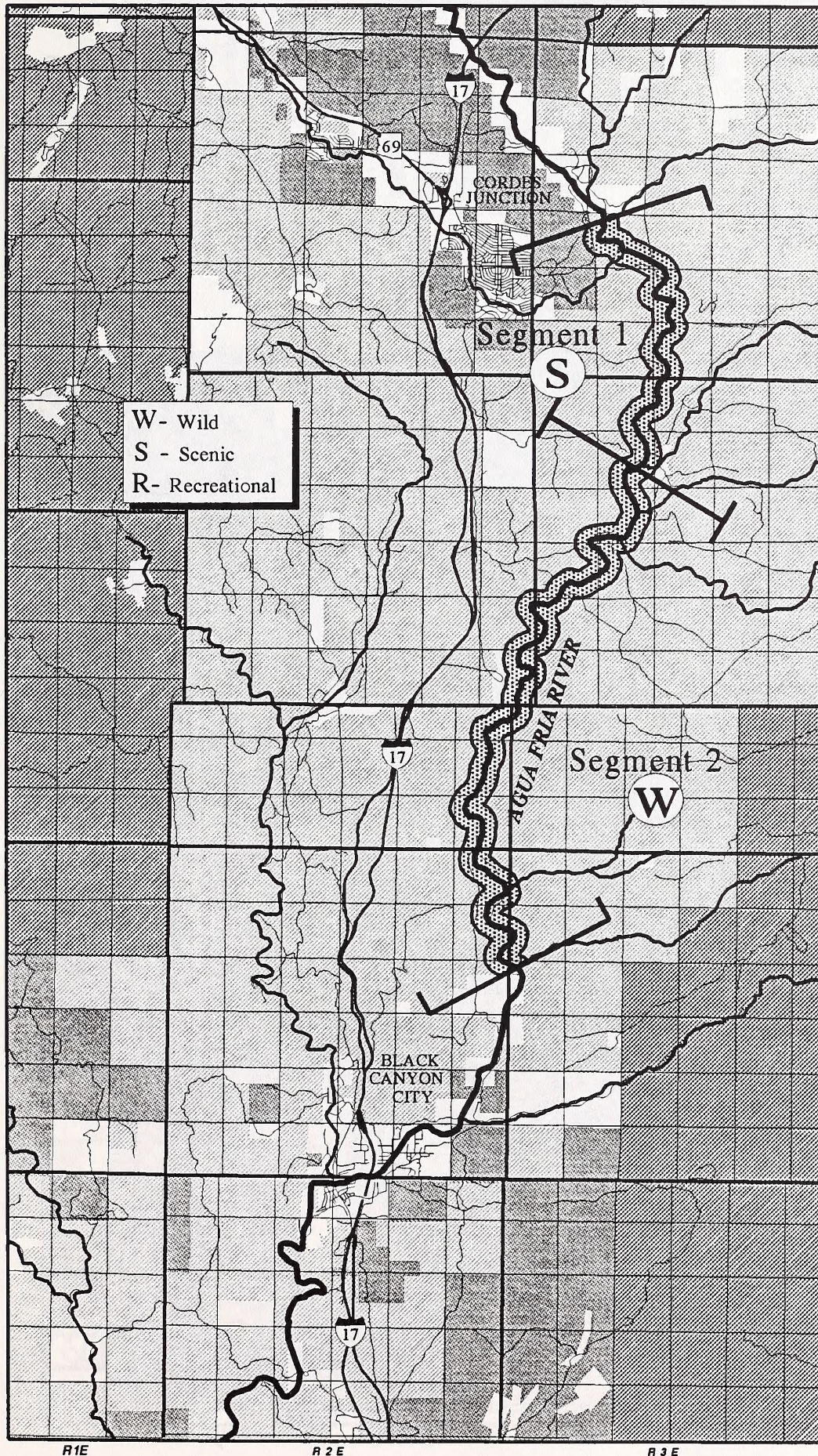


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PHOENIX DISTRICT
PHOENIX RESOURCE AREA

October 1994
MAP 2-9

AGUA FRIA RIVER

(Eligible River Area)

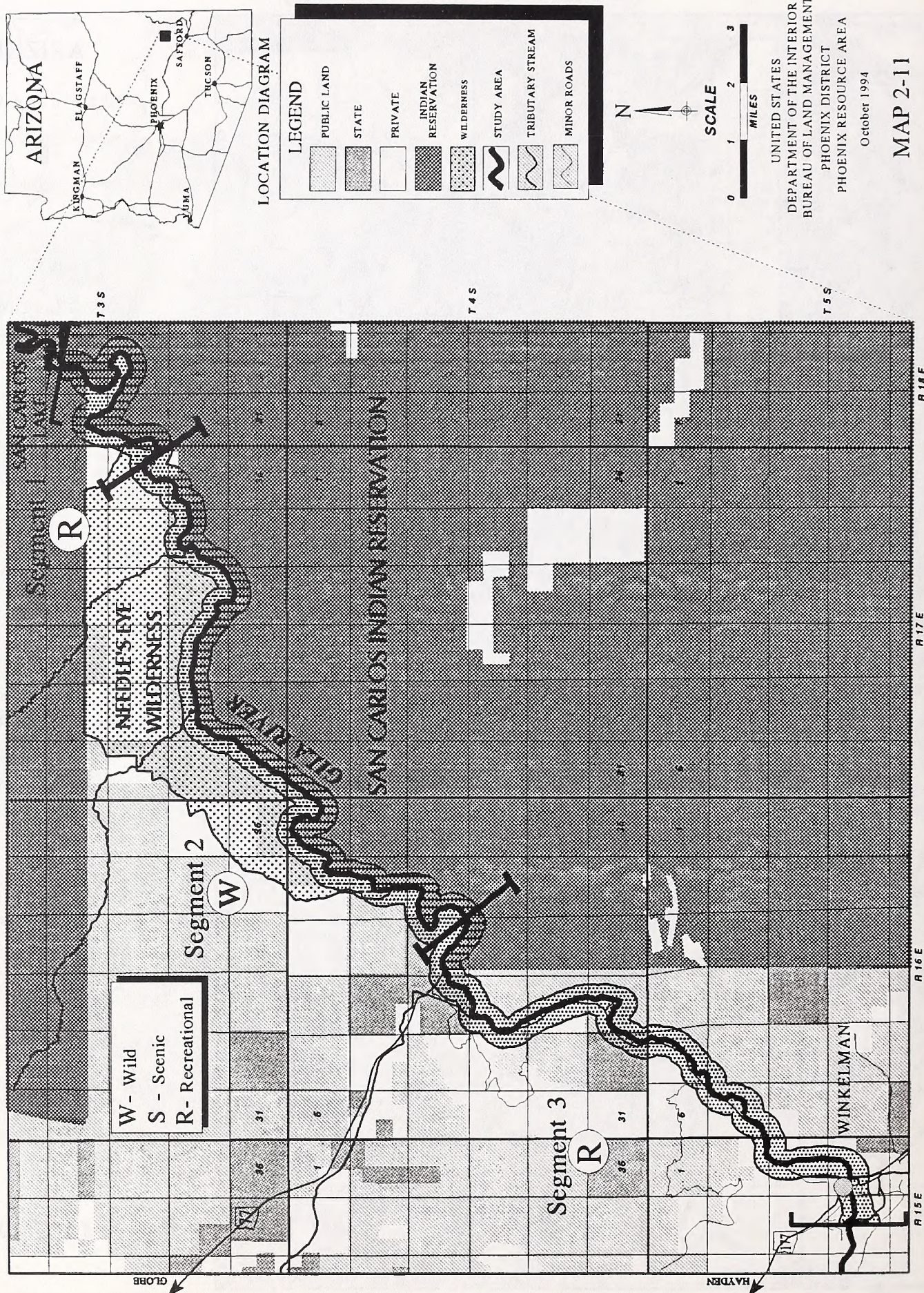


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PHOENIX DISTRICT
PHOENIX RESOURCE AREA
October 1994

MAP 2-10

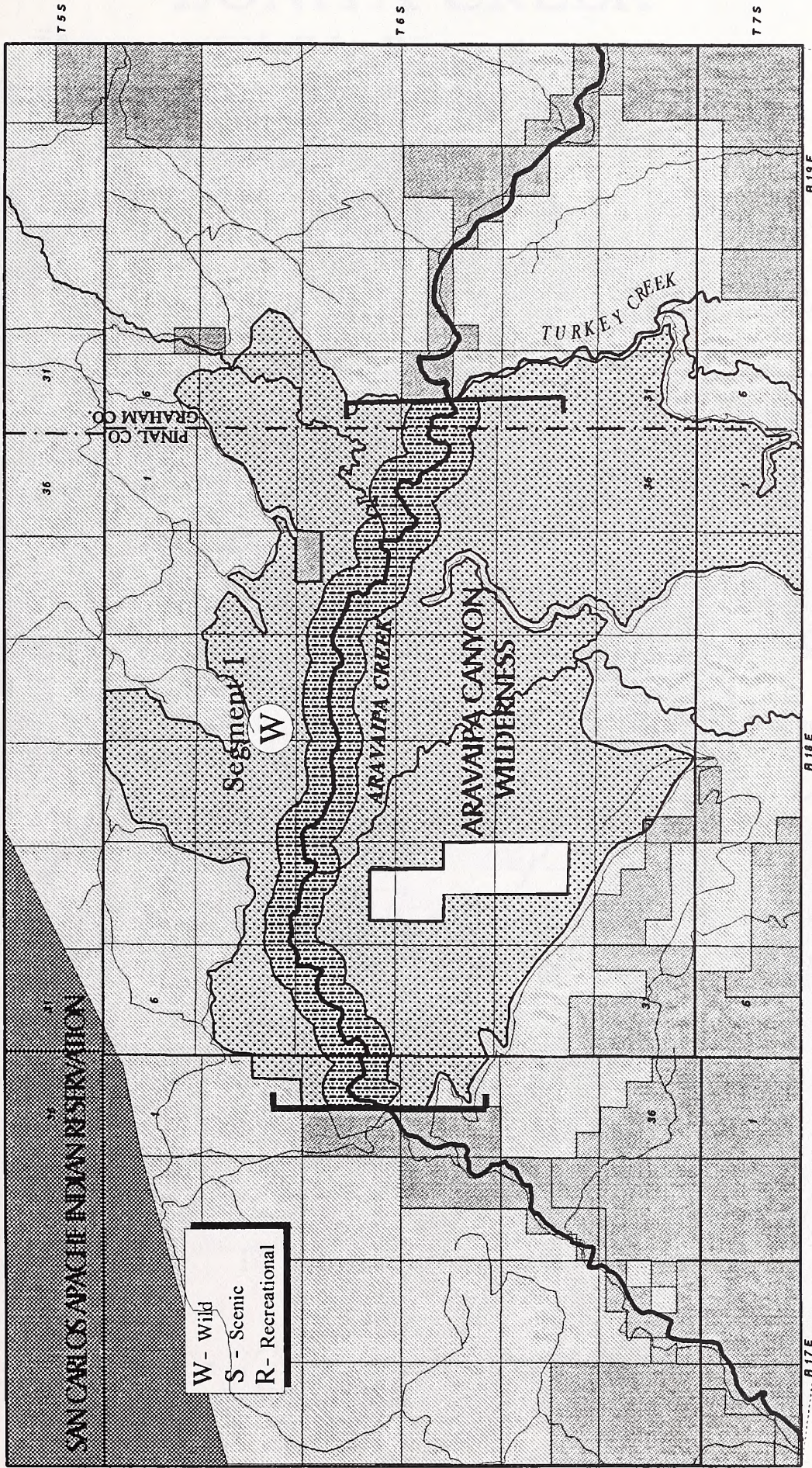
GILA RIVER (MIDDLE)

(Eligible River Area)

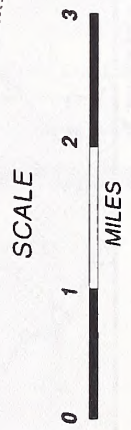
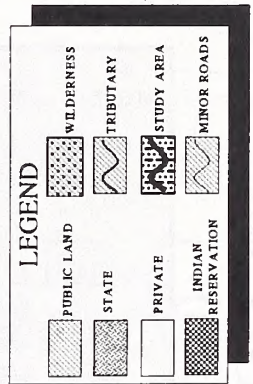


ARAVAIPA CREEK

(Eligible River Area)



W - Wild
S - Scenic
R - Recreational



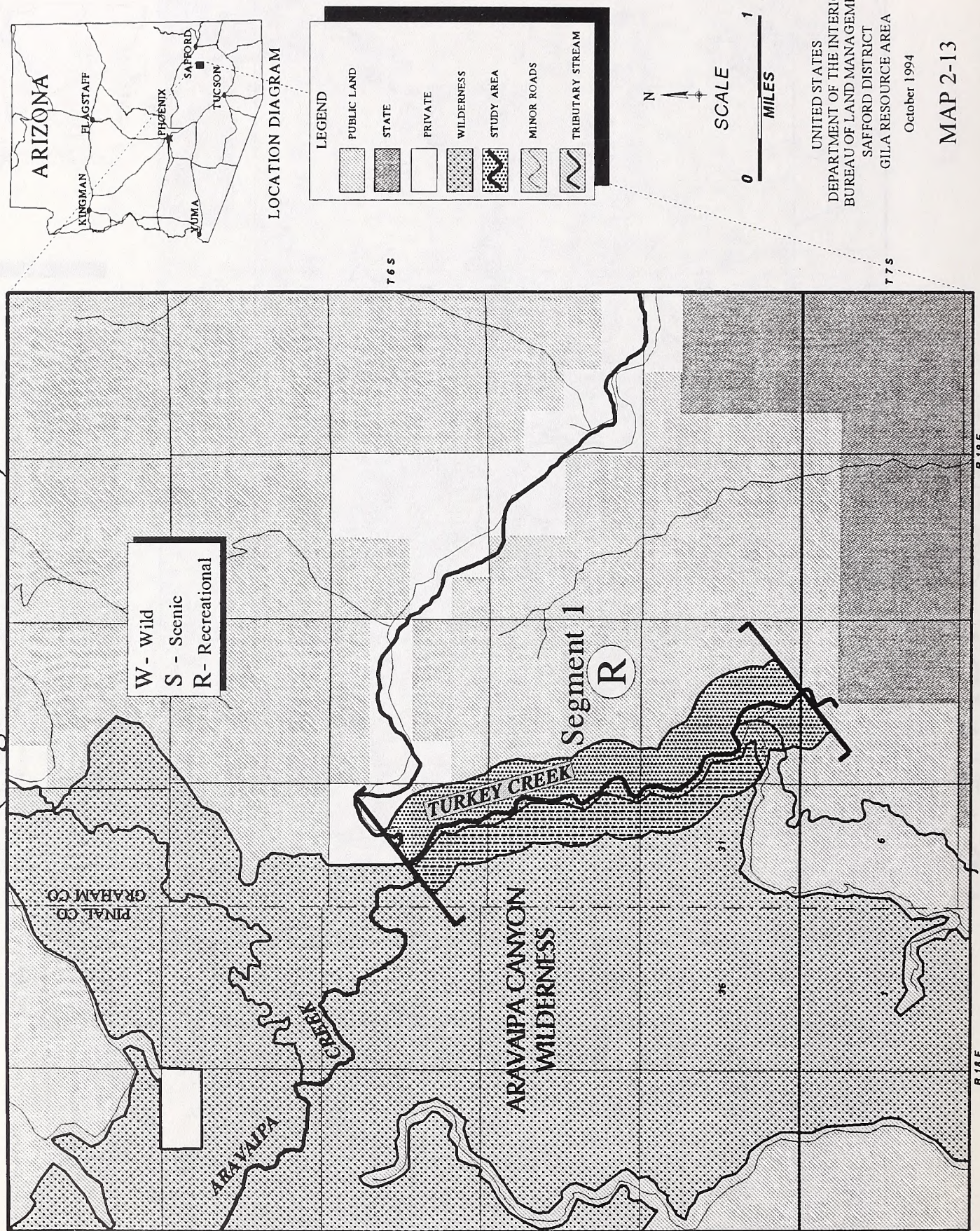
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA
October 1994

MAP 2-12



TURKEY CREEK

(Eligible River Area)



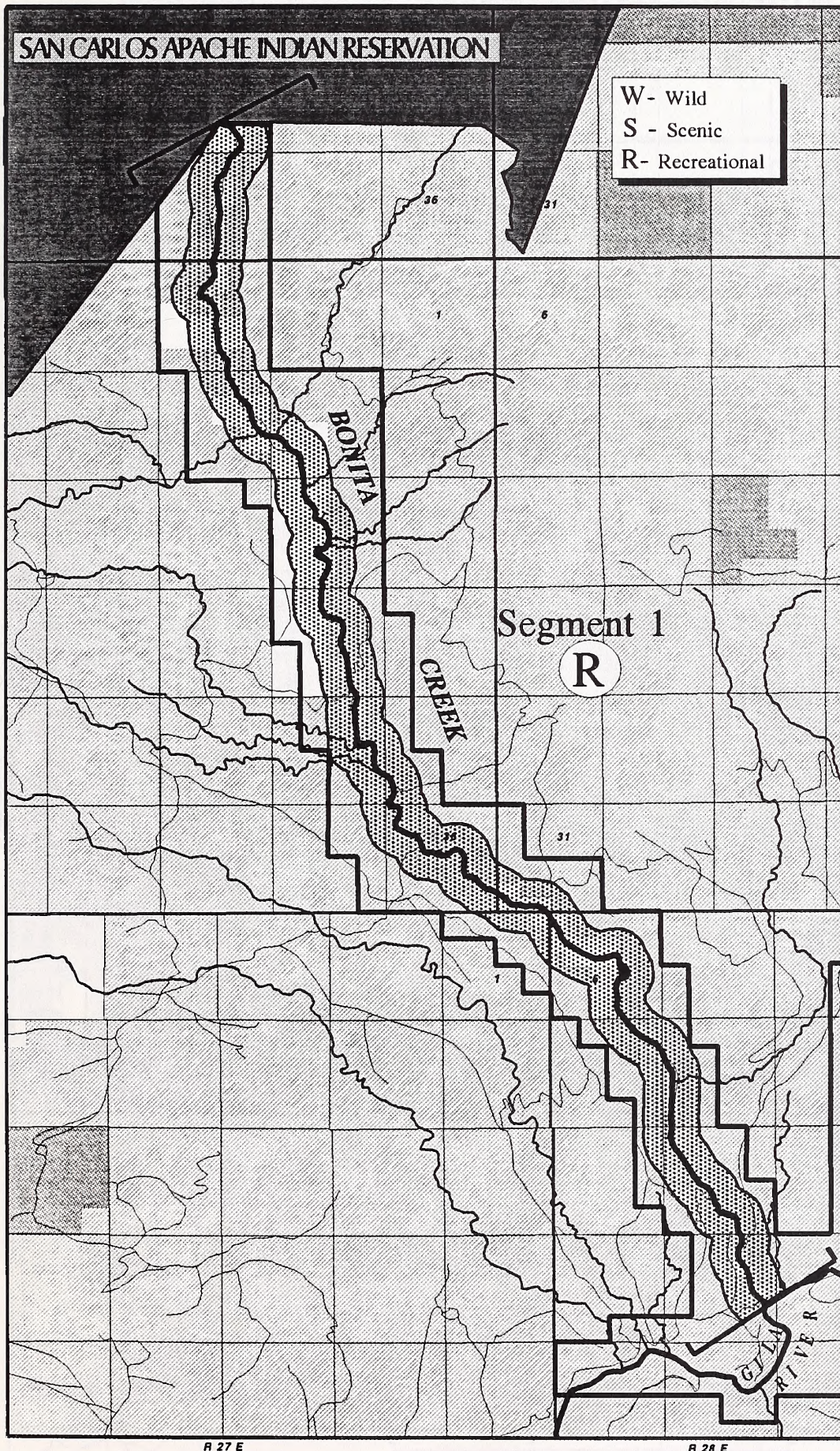
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

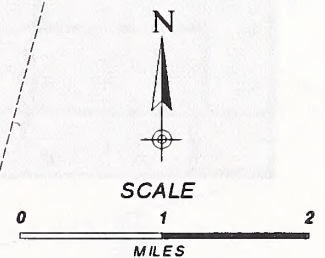
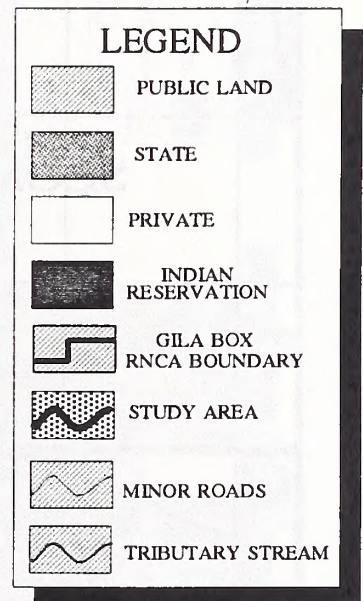
MAP 2-13

BONITA CREEK

(Eligible River Area)



LOCATION DIAGRAM



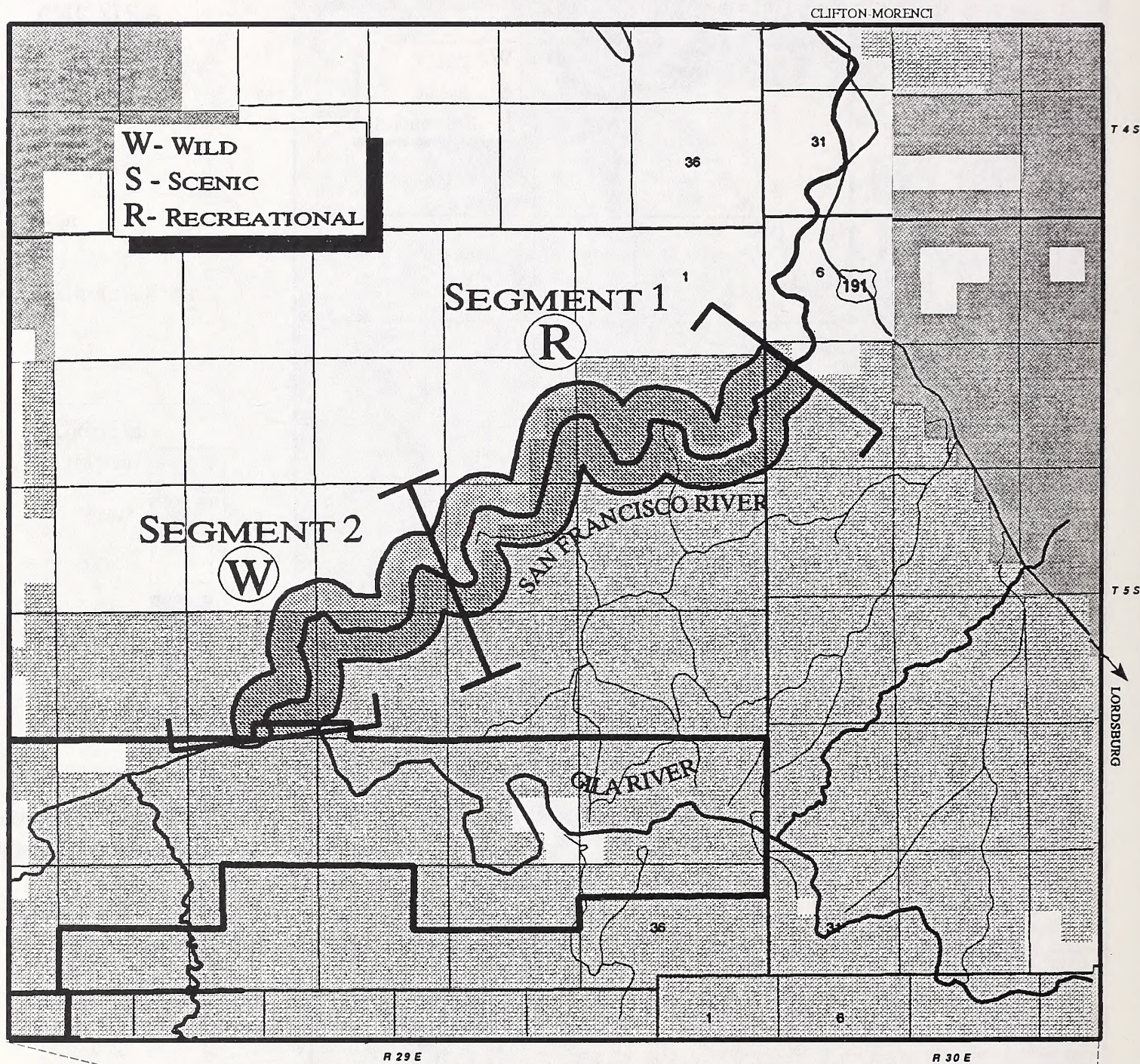
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-14

LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER

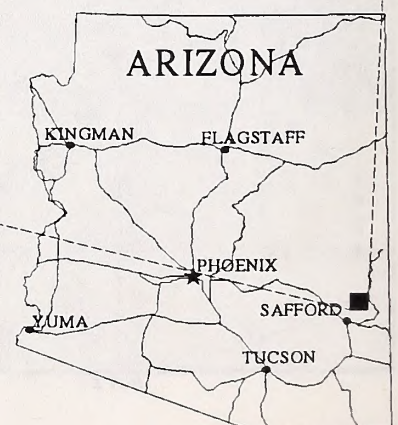
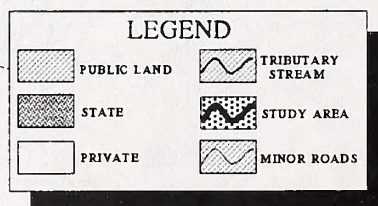
(Eligible River Area)



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SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

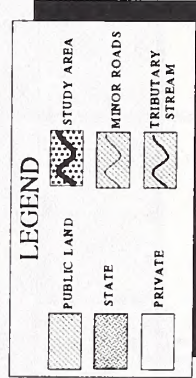
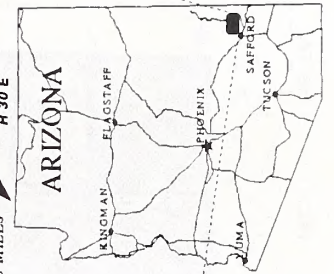
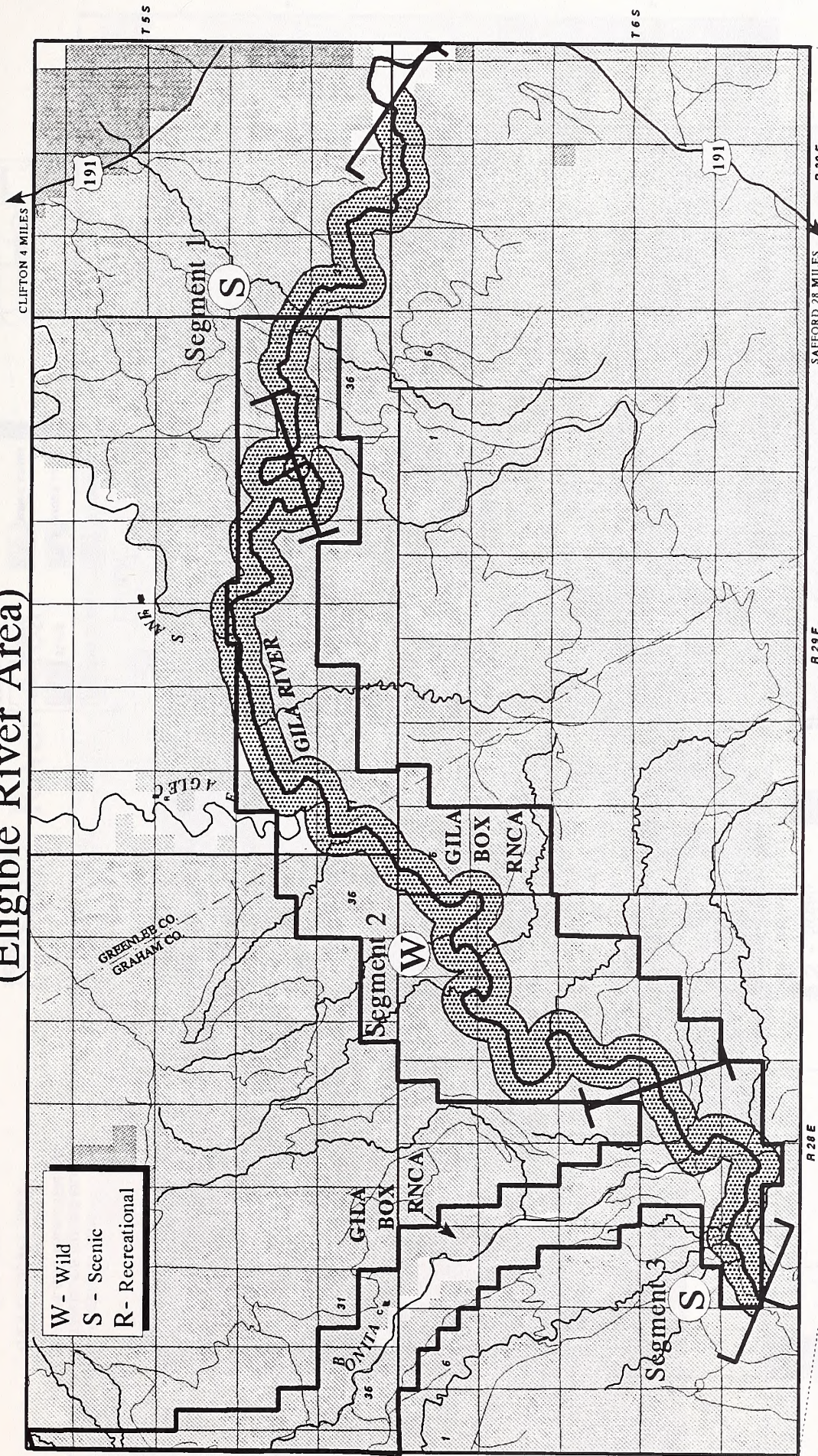
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MAP 2-15



GILA RIVER (GILA BOX)

(Eligible River Area)



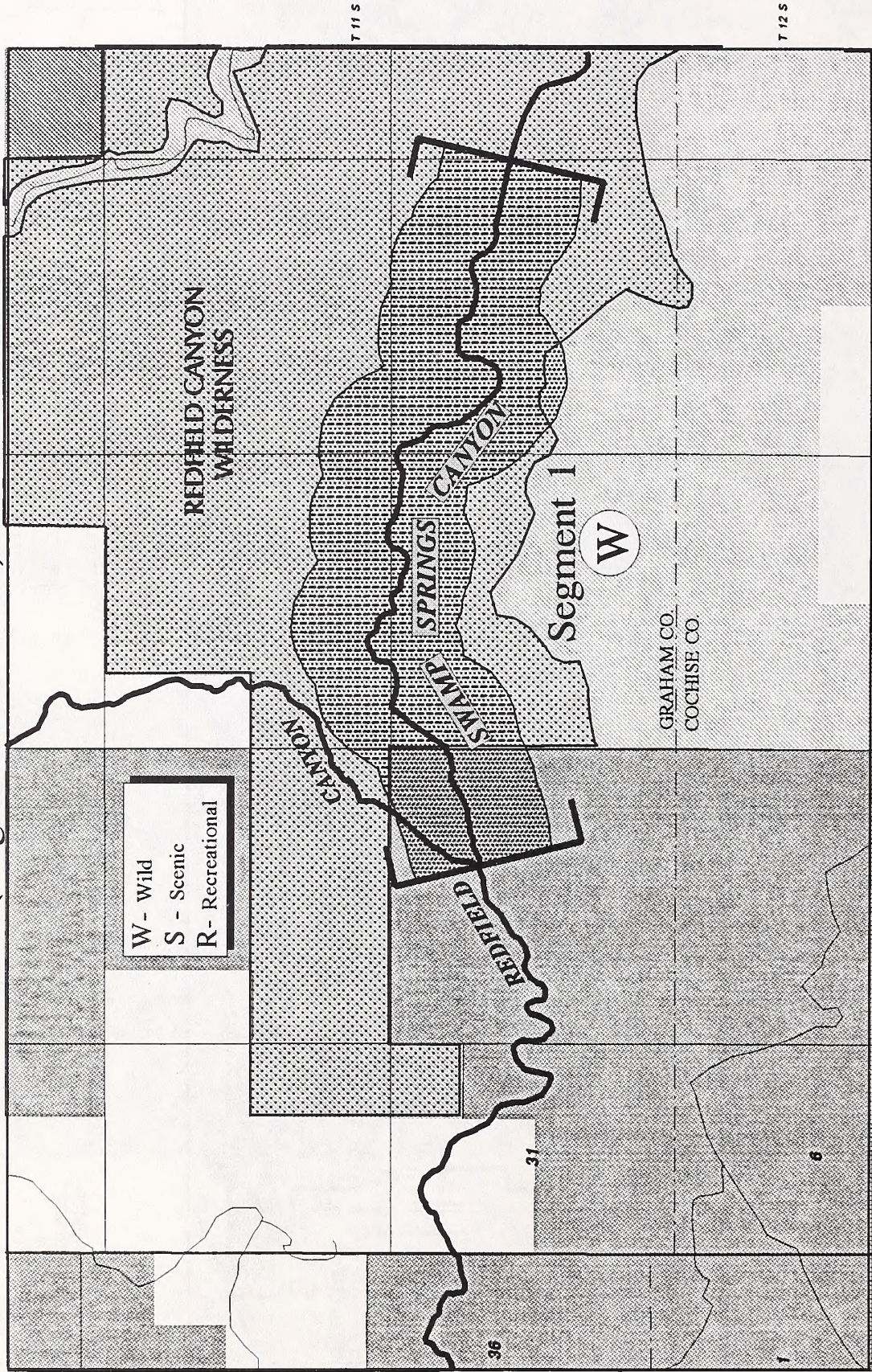
UNITED STATES
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SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-16

SWAMP SPRINGS CANYON

(Eligible River Area)



W - Wild
S - Scenic
R - Recreational

LEGEND

	PUBLIC LAND		WILDERNESS
	STATE		STUDY AREA
	PRIVATE		MINOR ROADS
	NATIONAL FOREST		

SCALE

0 1
MILES

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SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

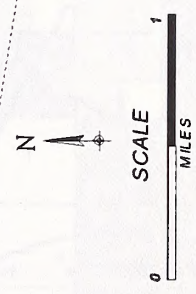
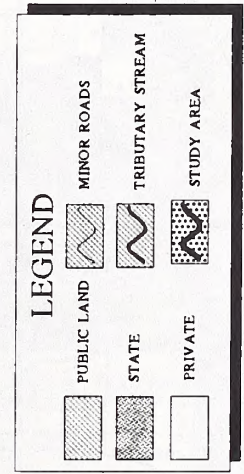
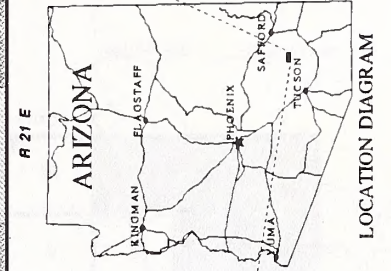
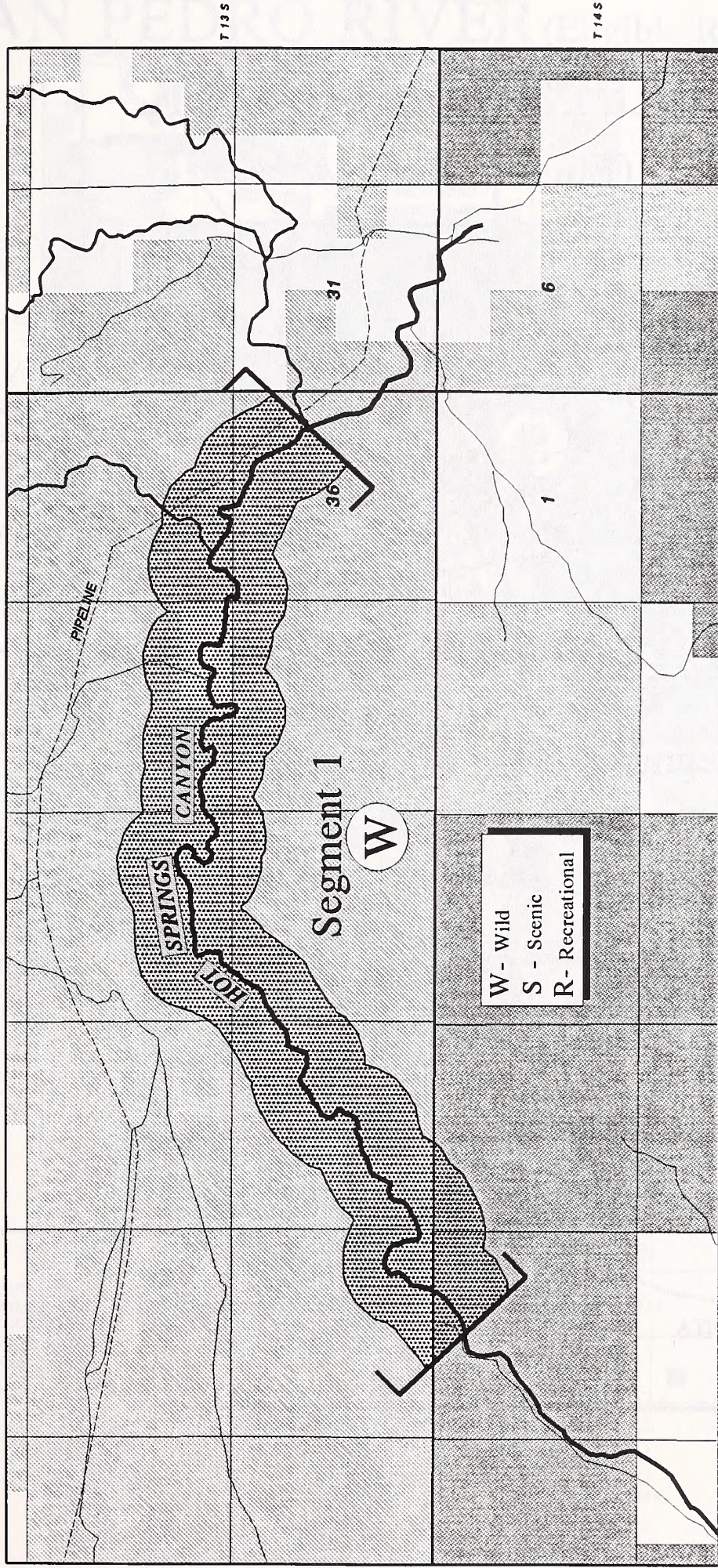
MAP 2-17

ARIZONA

Flagstaff, Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma, Pinal, Maricopa, Pima, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache, Maricopa, Pinal, Yuma, Pinal, Maricopa, Pima, Graham, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Yavapai, Mohave, Coconino, Navajo, Apache

HOT SPRINGS CANYON

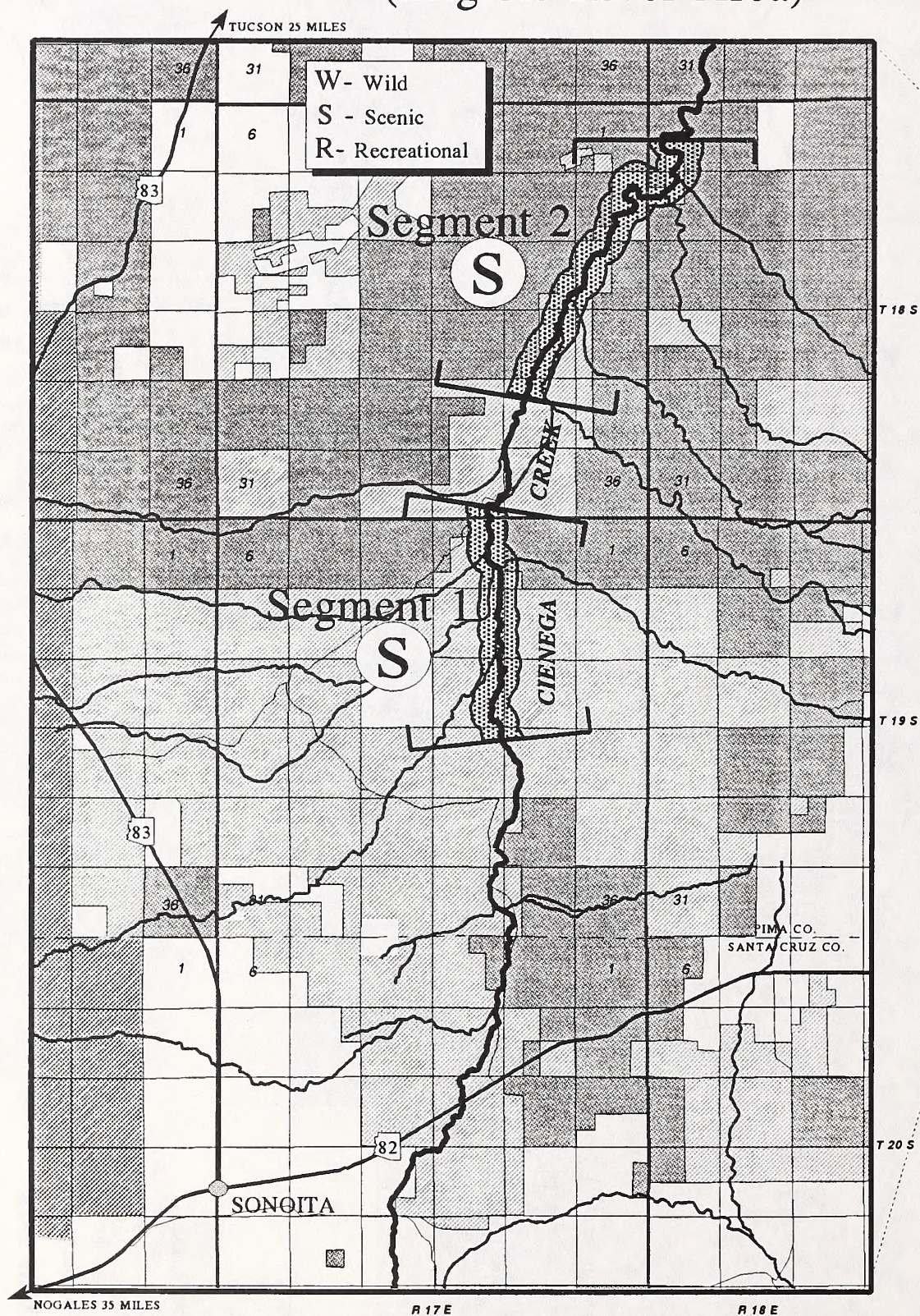
(Eligible River Area)



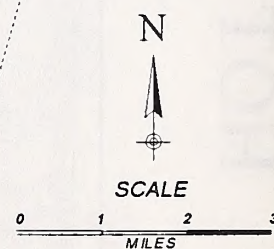
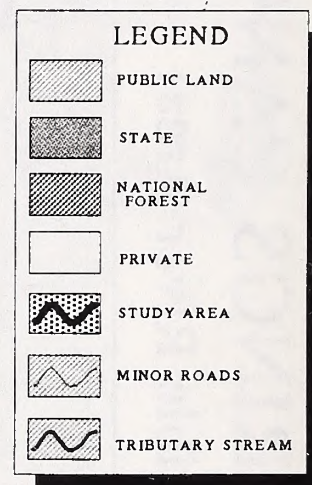
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA
October 1994
MAP 2-18

CIENEGA CREEK

(Eligible River Area)



LOCATION DIAGRAM

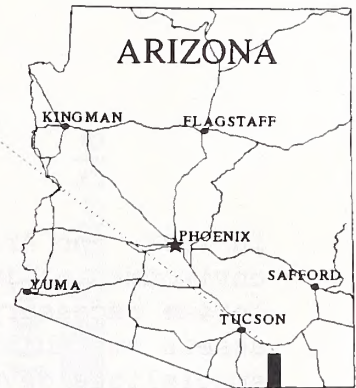
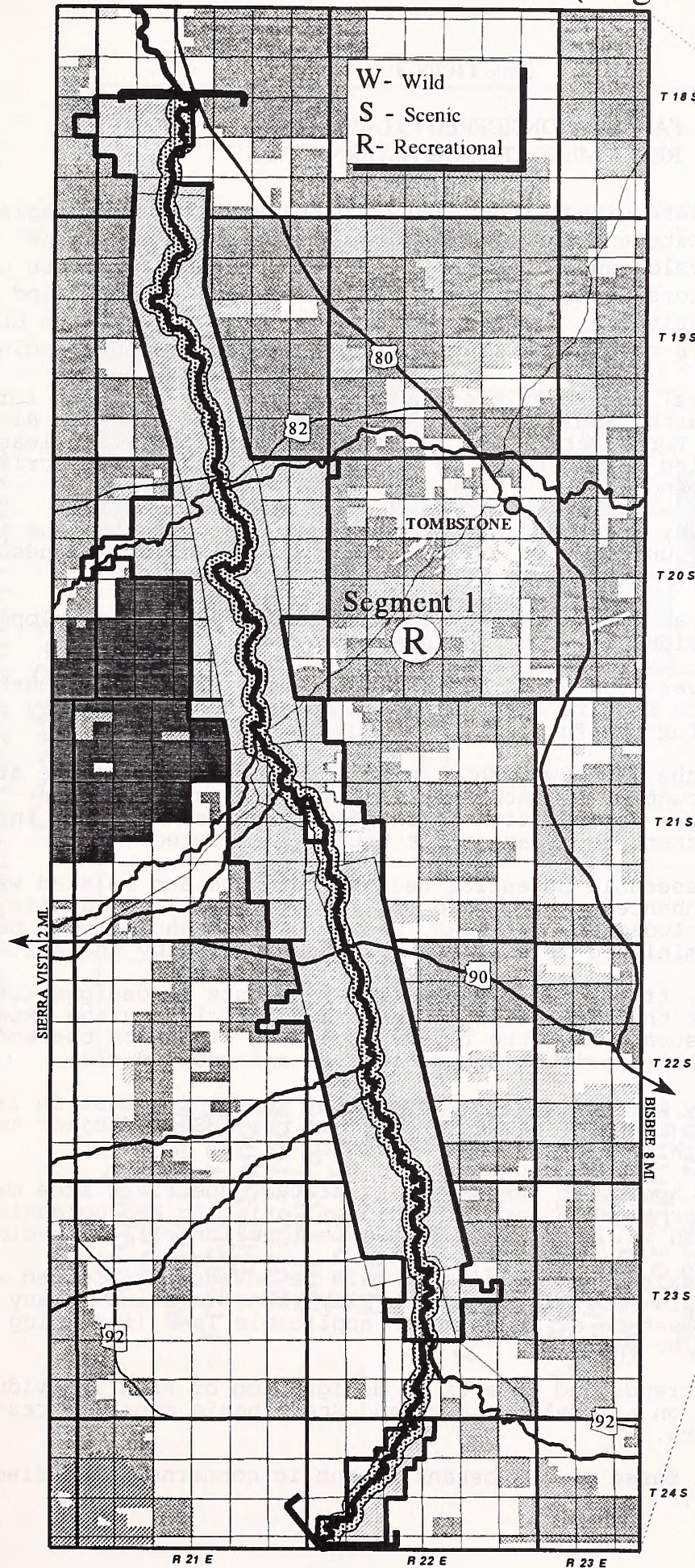


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
TUCSON RESOURCE AREA

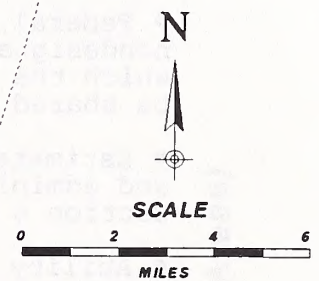
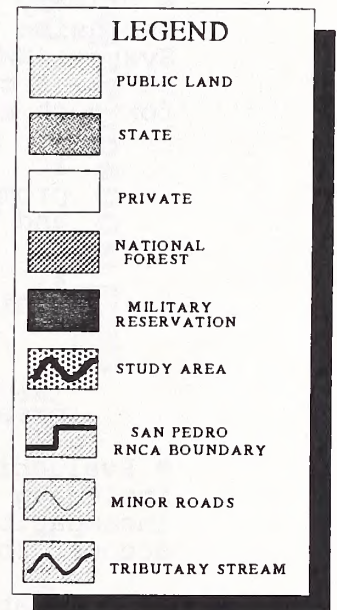
October 1994

MAP 2-19

SAN PEDRO RIVER (Eligible River Area)



LOCATION DIAGRAM



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
TUCSON RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 2-20

SECTION 3

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS & ALTERNATIVES

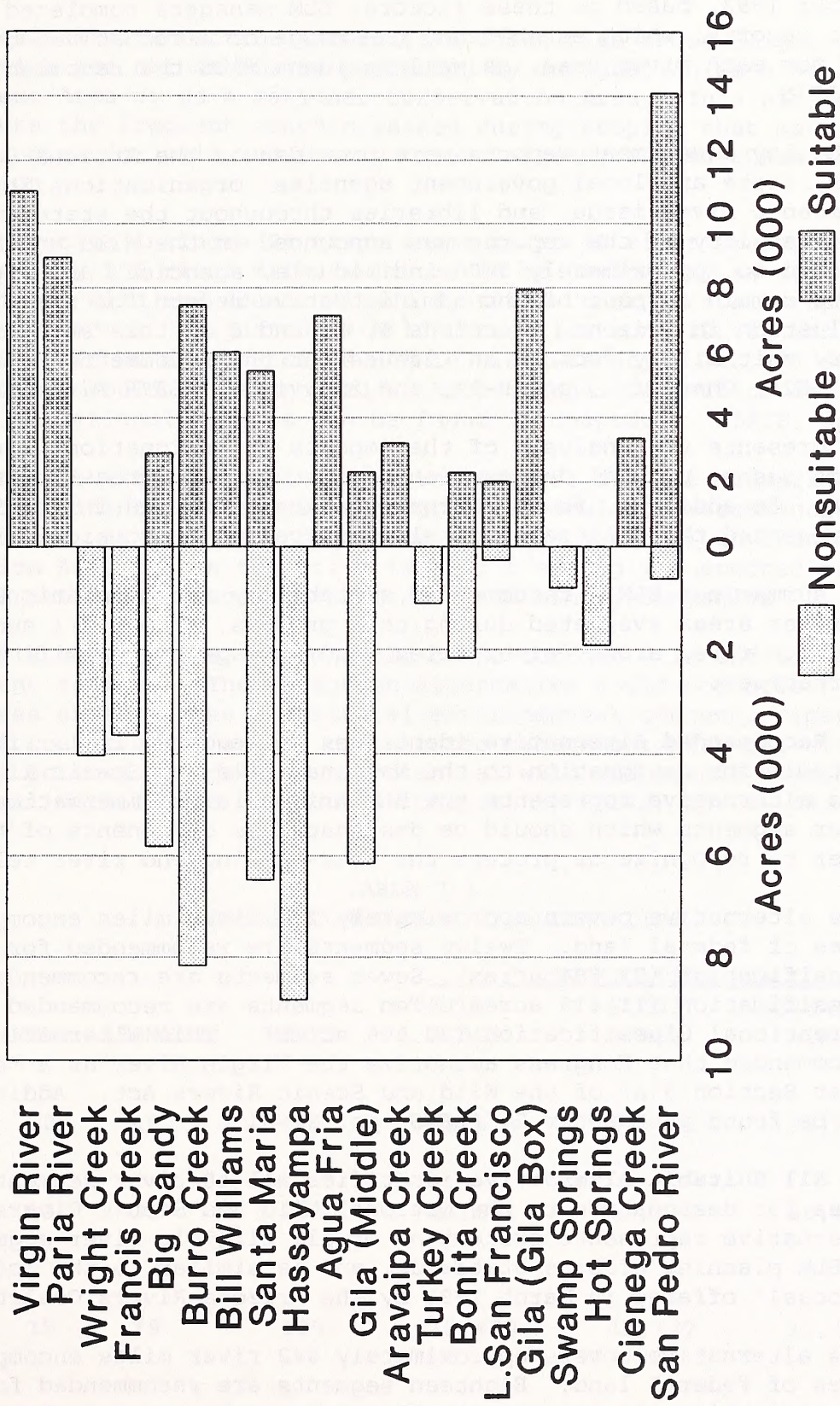
In 1993, the Arizona State Director decided to prepare a statewide legislative environmental impact statement for all eligible river areas in Arizona. It became necessary to develop supplemental criteria for field offices to use to assess suitability factors in Arizona. Arizona BLM managers, staff and field specialists developed criteria, based on the requirements outlined in BLM Manual 8351. The factors considered in the suitability assessments included:

- Primary reason(s) the river area is or is not being proposed for inclusion as a worthy addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). For rivers areas recommended as suitable, at least one of the 3 categories below should be identified as the primary criteria for such a recommendation.
 1. A river area that deserves national recognition, due to its prominence, uniqueness, or importance in the nation's landscape and history;
 2. A river area is seriously threatened by water developments, mining, residential developments, etc.;
 3. A river area which has identified outstandingly remarkable values which require special management protection so they can be preserved for the future.
- Evaluation of the land ownership, minerals values, use in the area, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses. Jurisdictional consideration must be taken into account to the extent that management would be affected.
- Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters which would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed will be identified if the area were included in the NWSRS, and the values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected by the Act.
- Federal, State, tribal, local, or other interests in designation or nondesignation of the river will be identified, including the extent to which the administration of the river, including the costs thereof, may be shared by State, local, or other agencies and individuals.
- Estimate costs, if necessary, of acquiring lands, interest in lands, and administering the area if it is added to the NWSRS, subject to Section 6 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Ability of the agency to manage and/or protect the river area or segment of a river area, or other mechanism (existing and potential) to protect identified values other than WSR designation will be evaluated.
- Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected will be identified. In determining suitability, consideration of any valid existing rights must be afforded under applicable laws (including WSRA), regulations, and/or policies.
- Socioeconomic trends and impacts of designation of each individual study river area on a local, county, and State basis over the reasonably foreseeable future.
- Other criteria based upon substantive public concerns identified in scoping sessions.

SUITABILITY

Recommended Alternative

Chart 3-1



(Eligible River Areas)

In September 1993, based on these factors, BLM managers completed suitability assessment reports, which established the range of alternatives to be analyzed in the *DLEIS* for each river area, as well as identified the recommended alternative for the *DLEIS*.

The suitability assessment reports were provided to the Arizona Congressional delegation, state and local government agencies, organizations involved in the wild and scenic river issue, and libraries throughout the state and southern Utah. Availability of the reports was announced in the Wild and Scenic River Update mailed to approximately 1400 individuals, agencies, and organizations. The reports remain as part of the administrative record for the wild and scenic river evaluation in Arizona. Sections 4, 5, and 6 of this study report summarize the primary suitability factors and issues for the recommended rivers. Also, refer to *FLEIS*, Chart 1-1, pg. 8-11, and individual *FLEIS* Rivers Appendix.

The *FLEIS* presents the analyses of the impacts of designation, nondesignation, and in some cases, partial designation of the 20 river areas for each individual river area. In addition, four alternatives are presented in the Statewide *FLEIS* which represented the full range of alternatives to be considered.

Chart 3-1 summarizes BLM's recommended suitability recommendations for all eligible river areas evaluated during this process. Table 3-1 summarizes the differences in river areas, river miles, and acreage by classification for the four alternatives.

The **Recommended Alternative** identifies 25 segments in 13 river areas as suitable for designation to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This alternative represents the BLM Arizona's recommendation for those river segments which should be designated as components of the NWSRS in order to recognize or protect the free-flowing and river related values.

This alternative covers approximately 235 river miles encompassing 65,516 acres of federal land. Twelve segments are recommended for Wild Classification (33,594 acres). Seven segments are recommended for Scenic Classification (11,416 acres). Ten segments are recommended for Recreational Classification (20,506 acres). This alternative also recommended that Congress authorize the Virgin River as a "study river" under Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Additional details can be found in Chapter 2, *FLEIS*, pp. 27-31.

The **All Suitable Alternative** identifies all 40 river segments in 20 river areas for designation to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. This alternative represents protection of all eligible river segments identified in BLM planning efforts statewide, and is similar to the "citizens' proposal" offered in March 1991 by the Arizona Rivers Coalition.

This alternative covers approximately 442 river miles encompassing 103,061 acres of federal land. Eighteen segments are recommended for Wild Classification (42,518 acres). Eleven segments are recommended for Scenic Classification (23,433 acres). Eleven segments are recommended for Recreational Classification (29,880 acres). Additional details can be found in Chapter 2, *FLEIS*, pp. 31-36.

The **Legislative Protection Alternative** identifies those eligible river areas which are not otherwise protected by designation as a National Wilderness Area or as a National Conservation Area. This alternative represents the frequent concern raised during scoping that many of the areas studied for wild and scenic rivers already had adequate federal protection.

This alternative includes 29 river segments in 15 river areas, totaling approximately 105 river miles which would be designated as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Under this alternative, eight segments would be designated as Wild Classification (12,430 acres), eleven segments would be designated as Scenic Classification (16,177 acres), and ten segments would be designated as Recreational Classification (13,940 acres). Additional details can be found in Chapter 2, *FLEIS*, pp. 36-41.

The **No Action Alternative** analyzes the impacts for the scenario in which none of the identified eligible river areas would be recommended for designation. As well as a requirement of the National Environmental Protection Act, this alternative is also a strongly supported alternative by rural residents, local governments, and mining companies.

Under this alternative, there would be no further wild and scenic river management actions. The no action alternative would not affect existing wilderness areas, areas of critical environmental concern, riparian national conservation areas, or resource management plan policies or proposed actions not related to potential wild and scenic rivers. Additional details can be found in Chapter 2, *FLEIS*, pp. 41-43.

TABLE 3-1
ACREAGE COMPARISON BY ALTERNATIVE

	RIVERS	SEGMENTS	MILES	CLASSIFICATION-PUBLIC LANDS		
				WILD ACRES	SCENIC ACRES	RECREATIONAL ACRES
ALL SUITABLE ALTERNATIVE	20	40	442	42,518	23,433	29,880
RECOMMENDED ⁵ ALTERNATIVE	13	25	235	33,594	11,416	20,506
LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION ALTERNATIVE	15	29	105	12,430	16,177	13,940
NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	0	0	0	0	0	0

⁵ Recommended Alternative also includes a recommendation to authorize the Virgin River as a "Study River" under Section 5(a) of the WSR, however, segments and mileages are not included in this alternative.

SECTION 4

RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPACTS

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study report makes two recommendations:

1. Authorization of the Virgin River as a Study River

It is recommended by BLM that the Arizona portion of the Virgin River should be authorized by Congress along with other segments of the Virgin River, beginning at the headwater tributaries, Utah and ending at Lake Mead, Nevada as a "study river," under the authority of Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In the interim, the Arizona segments of the Virgin River (as shown on Map 4-1), totaling 9,344 acres, will remain under protective management, as prescribed in the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan.

By designating the Virgin as a 5(a) Study River, all federal land management agencies would be mandated to participate under the Congressional time frame subject to adequate funding to complete a suitability assessment of the entire waterway in a consistent manner. This approach is more effective due to the differing priorities and schedules of the various federal, state, and local agencies, and interest groups concerned with this issue. In addition, BLM in Utah is working with Southeast Utah Planning Advisory Council, on plans to conduct regional or statewide wild and scenic river evaluations in Utah and may be drafting a bill for Congressional consideration. The Virgin River 5(a) river study could be combined with these efforts.

Since the Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic River *FLEIS* did assess the Virgin River segments as "suitable," BLM recognizes that Congress could designate those Arizona portions as a component of the Wild and Scenic River System based on this legislative package.

BLM will protect all identified outstandingly remarkable values, until such time as Congress takes action on the final recommendation. Refer to *FLEIS-Rivers Appendix*; pp.641-682 for a description of the segments, classifications, values, and management prescriptions for the Arizona portion of the Virgin River⁶.

⁶The Virgin River (All Suitable Alternative) Map in the Rivers Appendix; pg. 653 should have identified Segment 3 as "recreational".

2. Designating 13 Components to the National Wild and Scenic River System

It is the recommendation of the BLM that 13 river areas totaling approximately 233.5 river miles and 65,516 acres of public lands administered by the BLM should be designated by Congress as components of the National Wild and Scenic River System. Tables 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3 identify the recommended river areas, numbers of river segments and miles involved, recommended classifications, and acres of public lands affected.

The Department of Interior's Record of Decision accompanies this *Study Report*. The Record of Decision is the official administrative document which causes BLM's Arizona Wild and Scenic River Legislative Package to proceed to Congress and allows nonsuitable rivers to be released from protective management for wild and scenic river purposes.

The following tables list the 13 river areas recommended by BLM for Wild and Scenic River designation. Descriptions of each river area follow.

TABLE 4-1

RIVER AREAS RECOMMENDED FOR DESIGNATION⁷ (approximate river mileage)

RIVER AREA NAME	AFFECTED SEGMENTS (#)	RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION			TOTAL (mi.)
		WILD (mi.)	SCENIC (mi.)	RECREATIONAL (mi.)	
Paria River	1	28.0	0	0	28.0
Big Sandy	1	9.2	0	0	9.2
Burro Creek	4	24.2	0	0	24.2
Bill Williams River	3	14.0	5.0	0	19.0
Santa Maria River	1	17.6	0	0	17.6
Agua Fria River	3	10.3	12.1	0	22.4
Gila River (Middle)	1	0	0	7.5	7.5
Aravaipa Creek	1	10.0	0	0	10.0
Bonita Creek	1	0	0	8.1	8.1
Lower San Francisco	2	0	0	6.4	6.4
Gila River (Gila Box)	3	0	15.2	11.4	26.6
Cienega Creek	2	0	10.5	0	10.5
San Pedro River	2	0	0	44.0	44.0
Totals	25	113.3	42.8	77.4	233.5

⁷ River areas in which BLM recommends classifications different from tentative classifications indicated in bold type.

TABLE 4-2

LAND OWNERSHIP IN RECOMMENDED RIVER CORRIDORS
(approximate acreage)

RIVER AREA NAME	FEDERAL	STATE/LOCAL	PRIVATE	TOTAL
Paria River	8,960	0	0	8,960
Big Sandy	2,190	0	730	2,920
Burro Creek	7,010	0	480	7,490
Bill Williams	4,650	703	684	6,037
Santa Maria River	4,840	0	610	5,450
Agua Fria River	6,710	0	450	7,160
Gila River (Middle)	1,780	330	220	2,330
Aravaipa Creek	3,200	0	0	3,200
Bonita Creek	1,810	0	490	2,300
Lower San Francisco	1,450	0	570	2,020
Gila River (Gila Box)	7,460	0	500	7,960
Cienega Creek	3,200	160	0	3,360
San Pedro River	12,256	0	1,840	14,096
Totals	65,516 (89%)	1,193 (2%)	6,574 (9%)	73,283

TABLE 4-3

CLASSIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED PUBLIC LANDS
(BLM public land acres only)

RIVER AREA NAME	RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION			TOTAL (ac.)
	WILD (ac.)	SCENIC (ac.)	RECREATIONAL (ac.)	
Paria River	8,960	0	0	8,960
Big Sandy River	2,190	0	0	2,190
Burro Creek	7,010	0	0	7,010
Bill Williams River	4,164	486	0	4,650
Santa Maria River	4,840	0	0	4,840
Agua Fria River	3,230	3,480	0	6,710
Gila River (Middle)	0	0	1,780	1,780
Aravaipa Creek	3,200	0	0	3,200
Bonita Creek	0	0	1,810	1,810
Lower San Francisco	0	0	1,450	1,450
Gila River (Gila Box)	0	4,250	3,210	7,460
Cienega Creek	0	3,200	0	3,200
San Pedro River	0	0	12,256	12,256
Totals	33,594 (51%)	11,416 (18%)	20,506 (31%)	65,516

DESCRIPTION OF RECOMMENDED RIVER AREAS AND SEGMENTS

PARIA RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 28.0-mile segment from the Arizona-Utah boundary within Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness to the boundary of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

The Arizona portion of the Paria River managed by BLM is located entirely in the BLM administered Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness. The river area begins at the Arizona-Utah State Line and ends at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area boundary. The recommended segment is identified as "Segment 1" on See Map 4-2.

Outstanding scenic values consisting of deep, narrow colorful sandstone gorges to 2,600 feet in depth. This river area exemplifies the classic structural geologic features of the Colorado Plateau in its seven layered formations and erosive patterns. The Paria River area requires special management protection beyond the protection provided by the wilderness designation.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

Two additional segments managed by BLM in Utah and National Park Service in Arizona also have been determined suitable in the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan (1992). The National Park Service segment in Arizona is identified in Map 4-2 as "Segment 2."

BIG SANDY RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 9.2-mile segment from the gaging station at Signal Townsite to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdrawal at Alamo Lake; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

The recommended Big Sandy River corridor includes 6.7 miles is predominately in the BLM administered Arrastra Mountain Wilderness. The recommended segment is identified as "Segment 2" on Map 4-3.

The potential raising of Alamo Dam would threaten the free-flowing values of the recommended river segment, which includes an extremely valuable ecosystem, endangered species and other wildlife. Special management is needed to protect the outstandingly remarkable river and wilderness values.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

The segments not recommended for designation contain a majority of private lands making the protection of outstandingly remarkable values as wild and scenic river components a manageability problem for BLM.

BURRO CREEK, ARIZONA.---Four separated segments, totaling 24.2 miles, each to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river:

Segment 1: The 2.2-mile segment from the Baca Float-public land boundary north of Scratch Canyon to the mouth of Hellzapoppin' Canyon; and

Segment 2: The 8.5-mile segment within Upper Burro Creek Wilderness; and

Segment 3: The 9.0-mile segment from Six Mile Crossing to U.S. Highway 93; and

Segment 4: The 4.5-mile segment from Andy's Hole to the public-private land boundary in Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 12 West.

The segments recommended for inclusion into the NWSRS, through the spectacular canyon lands of Burro Creek, are the most outstanding segments in terms of scenic quality and primitive recreation. Classification of each of the river segments as "wild" will protect primitive recreation opportunities, outstanding scenic areas, and unique wildlife habitat from future resource degradations from potential mineral development on public lands. The recommended portion of Segment 4 was changed from a tentative classification of "scenic" to a recommended classification "wild" as result of eliminating the nonsuitable portions of that segment. The segments (1-4) as described above are identified on Map 4-4.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

The segments not recommended contain a majority of State Trust and private lands so as to make the protection of outstandingly remarkable values as wild and scenic river components a manageability problem for BLM. State trust lands in this river corridor could be managed as part of the wild and scenic river system, if interest is shown to do so by the state.

BILL WILLIAMS RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 19.0-mile segment from the Alamo Dam Withdrawal to the western boundary of the Swansea Wilderness; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

Segment 1: The 8.2-mile segment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Withdrawal at Alamo Dam to the western boundary of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness, as a wild river; and

Segment 2: The 5.0-mile segment from the western boundary of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness to the eastern boundary of the Swansea Wilderness, as a scenic river; and

Segment 3: The 5.8-mile segment within the Swansea Wilderness, as a wild river.

This river area would be a unique addition to the NWSRS as a representative of the Sonoran Desert/Mexican Highland transition of the Basin and Range Physiographic Province. Designation would provide special management protection of the free-flowing values and outstandingly remarkable fish and wildlife, scenic and recreation values. The segments (1-3) as described above are identified on Map 4-5. In addition, the Fish and Wildlife Service, administers, and has determined as "eligible" an approximately 9.5-mile segment downstream ending at Lake Havasu.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

SANTA MARIA RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 17.6-mile segment from the eastern boundary of the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Withdrawal at Alamo Lake; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

The recommended Santa Maria River corridor is primarily located in the BLM administered Arrastra Mountain Wilderness. The segment is identified as "Segment 1" on Map 4-6.

The potential raising of Alamo Dam would threaten the free-flowing values of the recommended river segment, which includes an extremely valuable ecosystem, providing significant habitats for birds, fish and other wildlife. This segment is an important back country travel route within the wilderness which needs special protection from possible elimination. Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

The segments not recommended for designation contain a majority of State Trust and private lands so as to make the protection of outstandingly remarkable values as wild and scenic river components a manageability problem for BLM. State trust lands in this river corridor could be managed as part of the wild and scenic river system, if interest is shown to do so by the state.

AGUA FRIA RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 22.4-mile segment from Sycamore Creek to Larry Canyon; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

Segment 1: The 7.7-mile segment from Sycamore Creek to Horseshoe Ranch, as a scenic river; and

Segment 2: The 10.3-mile segment from Horseshoe Ranch to the Arizona Department of Transportation pump house, as a wild river; and

Segment 3: The 4.4-mile segment from the Arizona Department of Transportation pump house to Larry Canyon, as a scenic river.

The recommended Agua Fria River corridor includes 20.8 miles in public land ownership. The segments (1-3) as described above are identified on Map 4-7.

The Agua Fria River has been recognized for uniqueness and importance in the region's landscape and history. Future population growth of Phoenix Metropolitan areas could threaten the river related values in the river corridor. Special protection of the free-flowing values and outstandingly remarkable values is required.

Segment 3 was tentatively classified as "wild," but further evaluation during the suitability assessment resulted in a recommendation of "scenic" classification based on the current level of development. Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

GILA RIVER (MIDDLE), ARIZONA.---The 7.5-mile segment from the confluence of Dripping Springs Wash to the public-private land boundary in the center of Section 7, Township 5 South, Range 16 East; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river.

The recommended Middle Gila River corridor consists of 5.0 miles under federal ownership. The segment is identified as Segment 3 on Map 4-8.

The federal portions of this segment would benefit by special management protection of the scenic, recreational, wildlife habitat and geologic values. Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

The remaining segments contain sufficient State Trust, tribal and private lands so as to make the protection of outstandingly remarkable values as wild and scenic river components a manageability problem for BLM. State trust lands in this river corridor could be managed as part of the wild and scenic river system, if interest is shown to do so by the state.

ARAVAIPA CREEK, ARIZONA.---The 10.0-mile segment within Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

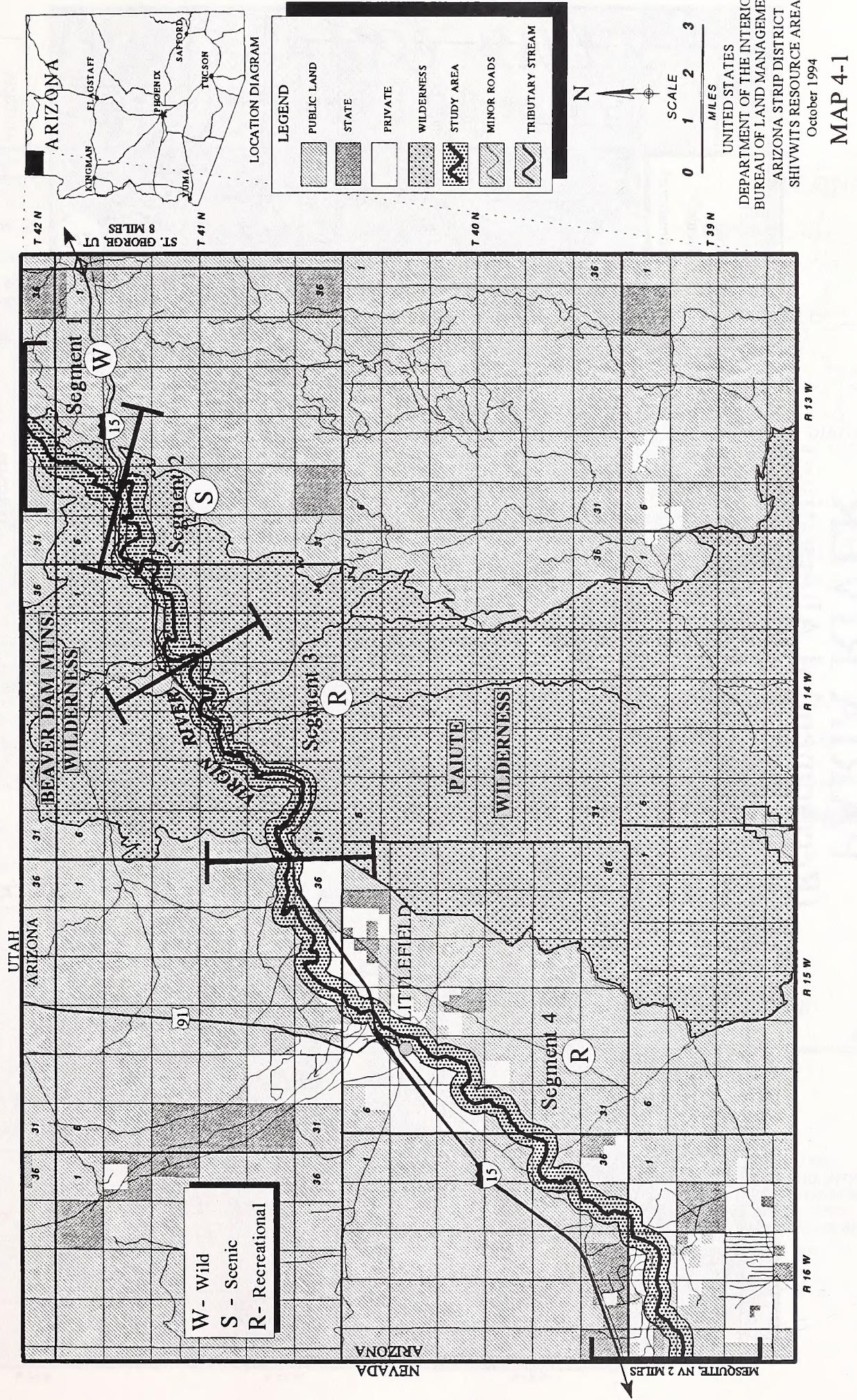
The recommended Aravaipa Creek River corridor is entirely in the BLM administered Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness. The river area begins at its confluence with Turkey Creek and ends approximately ½ mile downstream from the confluence with Hell's Half Acre Canyon. The segment is identified as "Segment 1" on Map 4-9.

Located in the Mexican Highland section of the Basin and Range Physiographic Province, and due to the diversity, quantity, and significance of the scenery, fish and wildlife, hydrologic values, and recreational opportunities, Aravaipa would be an outstanding addition to the NWSRS. It is a stream of national significance.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

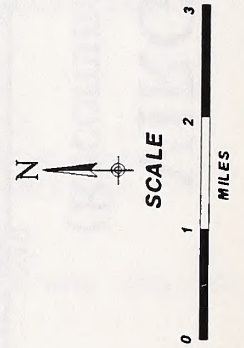
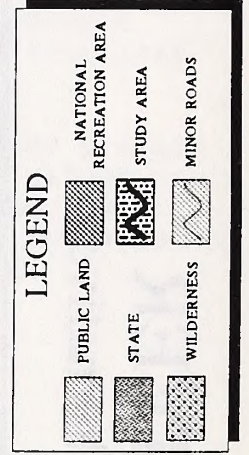
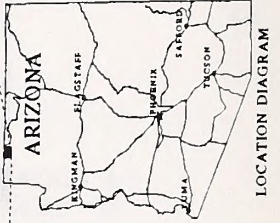
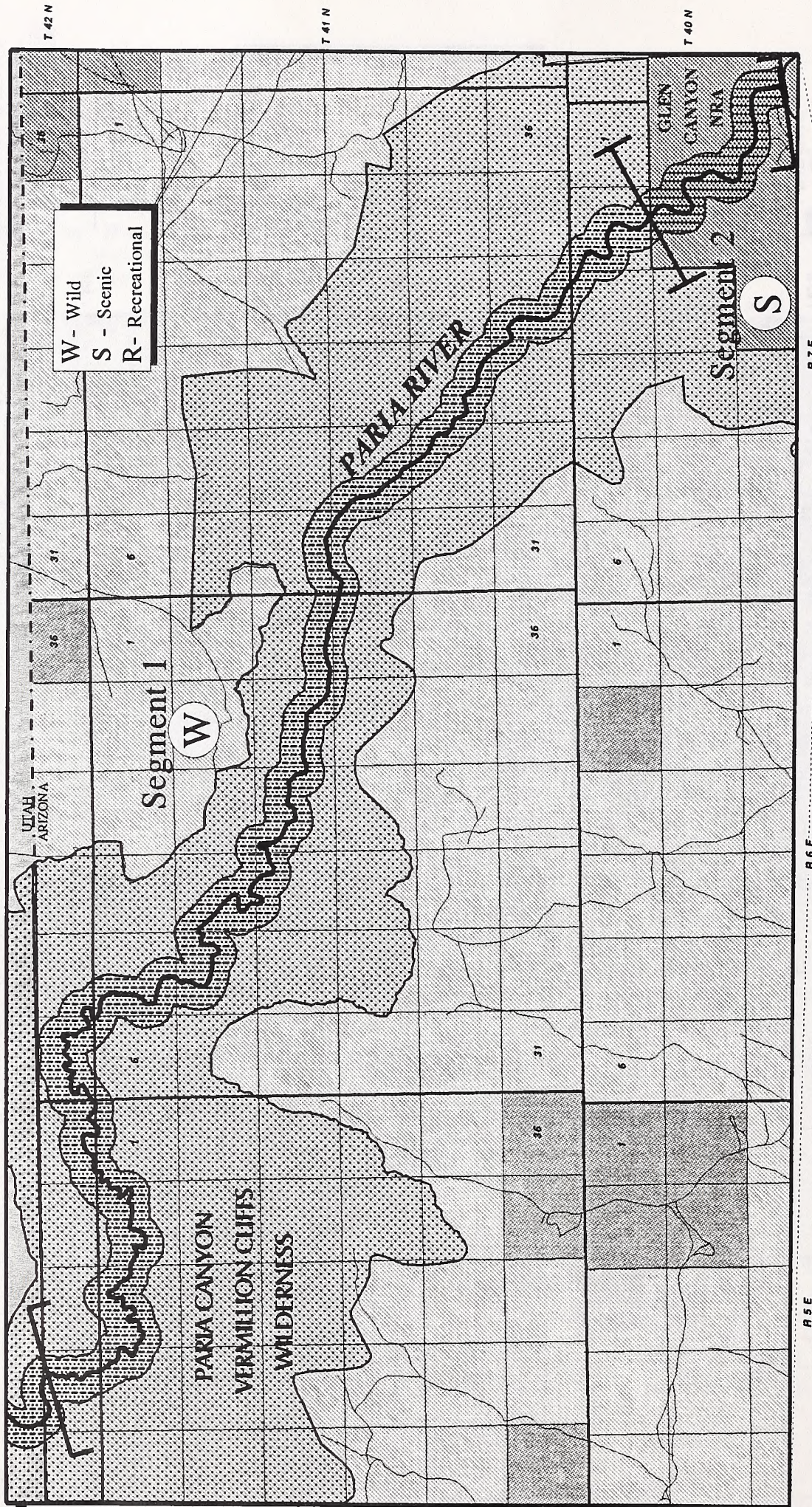
VIRGIN RIVER

(Recommended Alternative)



PARIA RIVER

(Recommended Alternative)



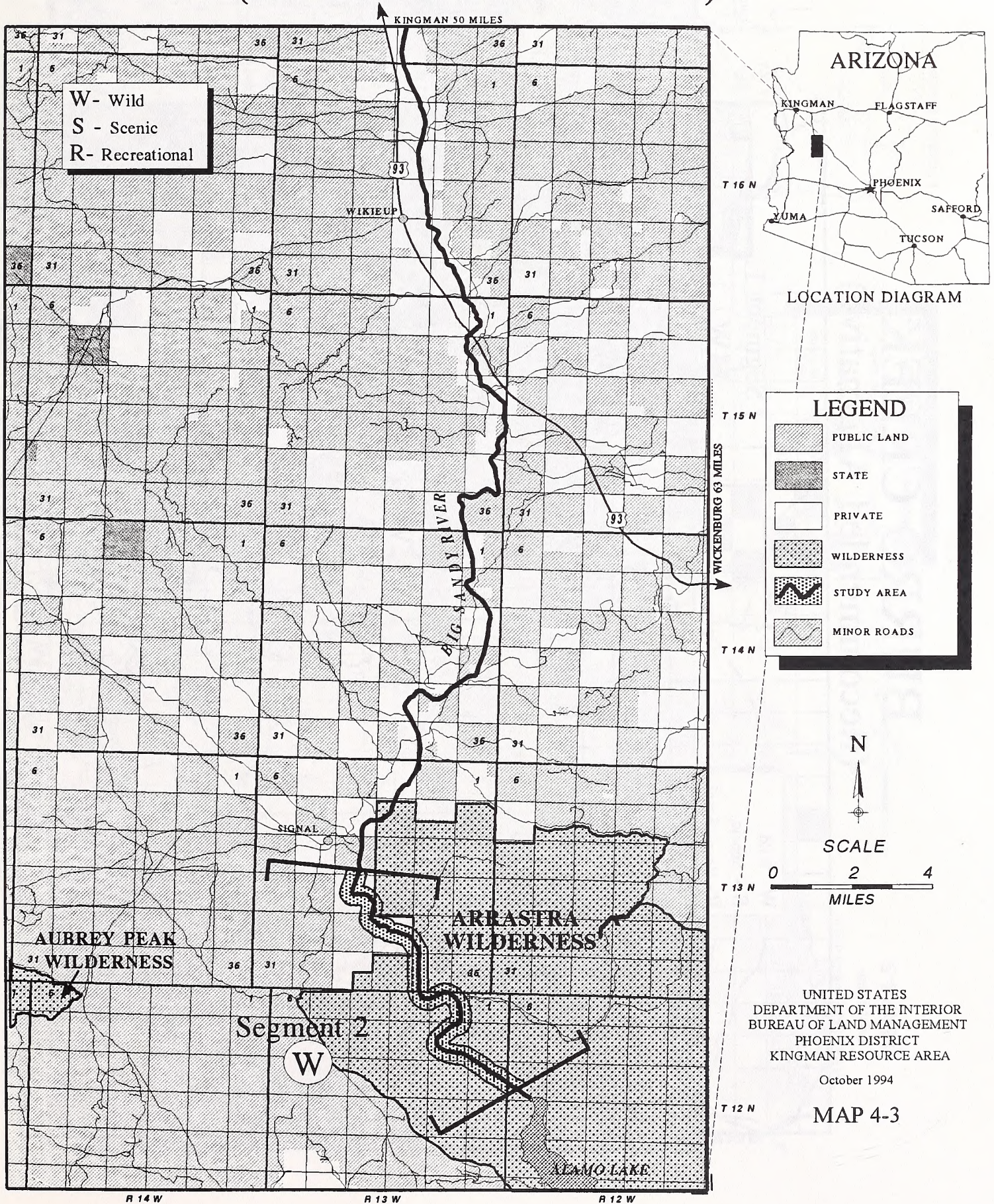
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT
VERMILION RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 4-2

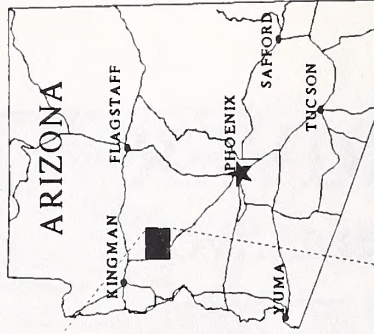
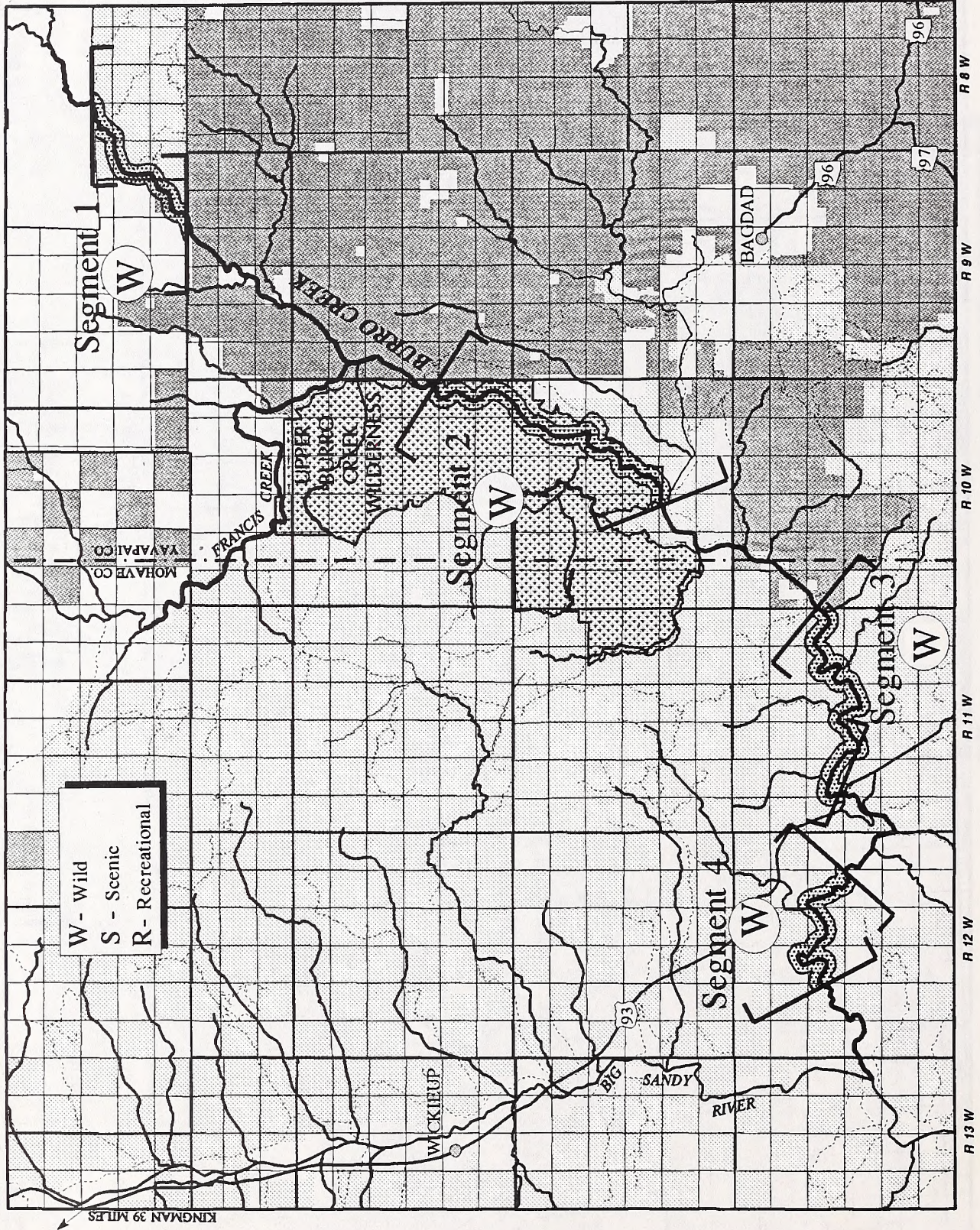
BIG SANDY RIVER

(Recommended Alternative)

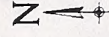
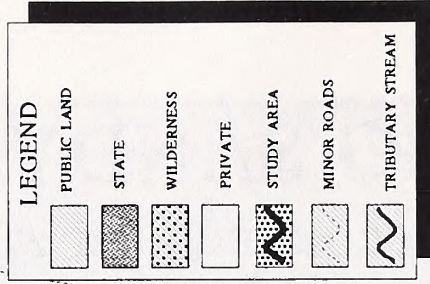


BURRO CREEK

(Recommended Alternative)



LOCATION DIAGRAM



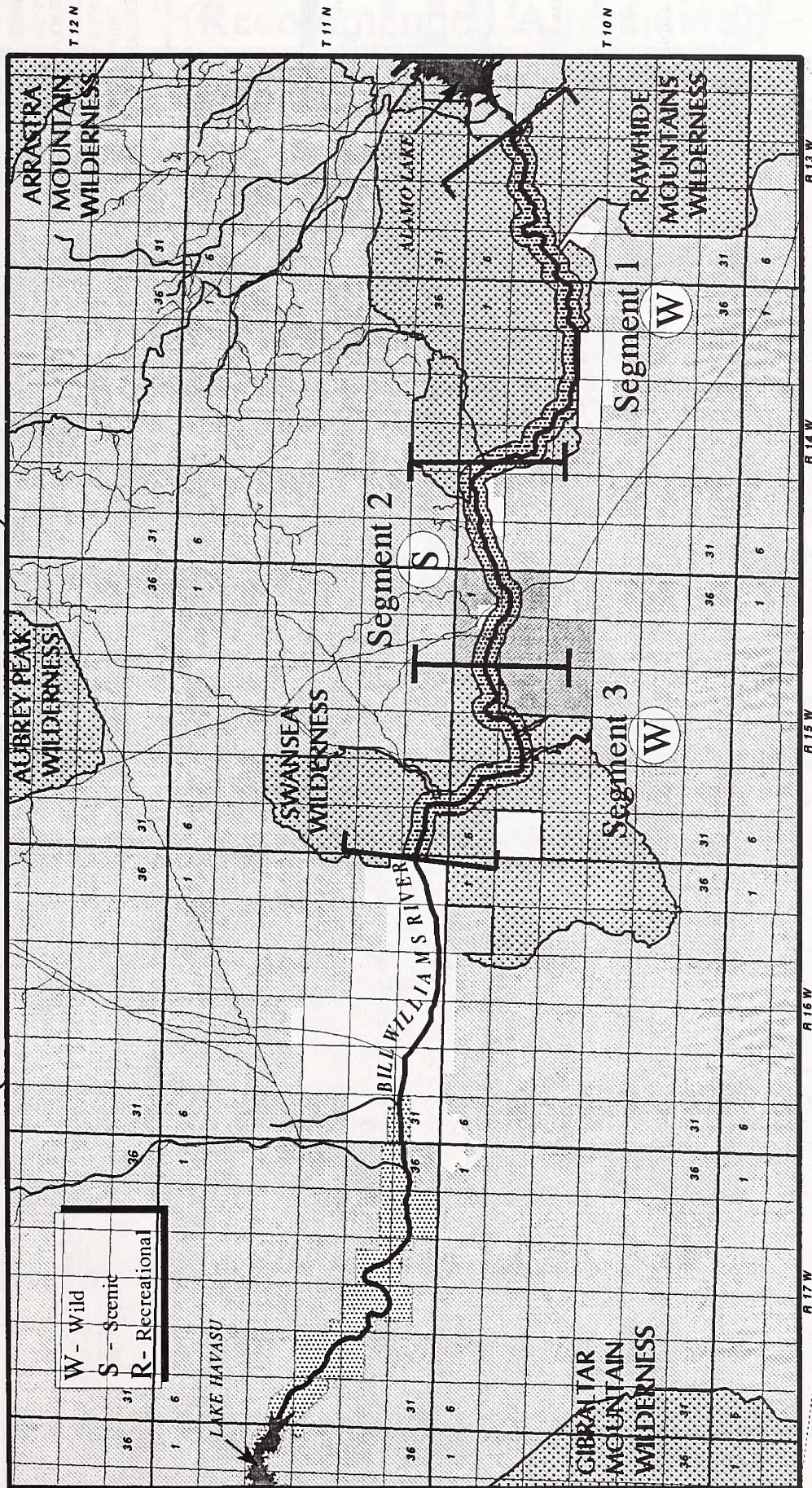
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 4-4

BILL WILLIAMS RIVER

(Recommended Alternative)

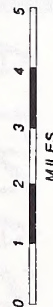


UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT
HAVASU RESOURCE AREA

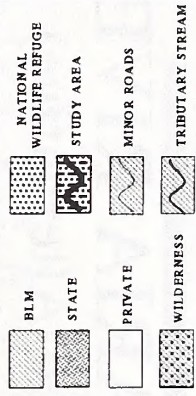
October 1994

MAP 4-5

SCALE

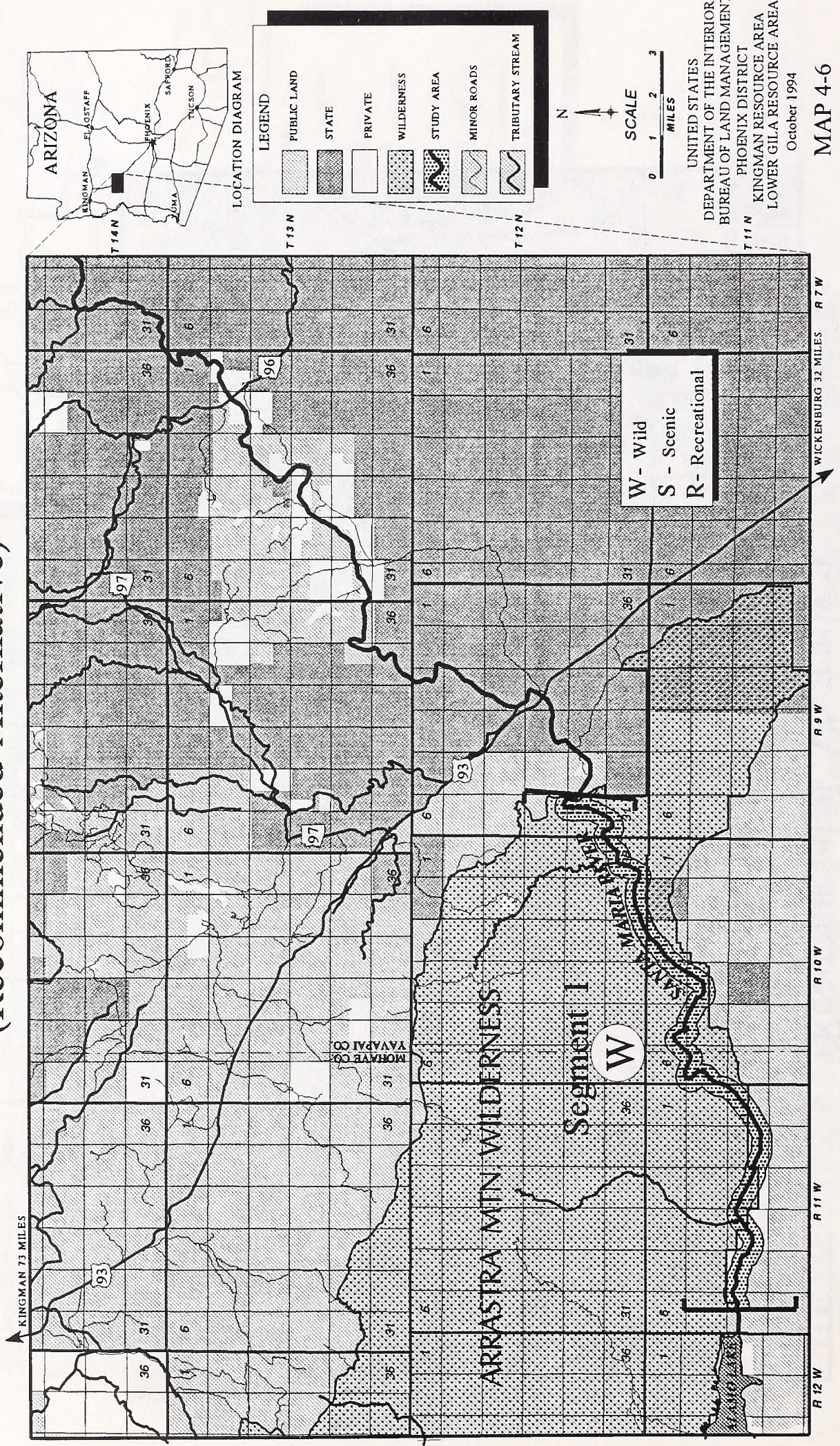


LEGEND



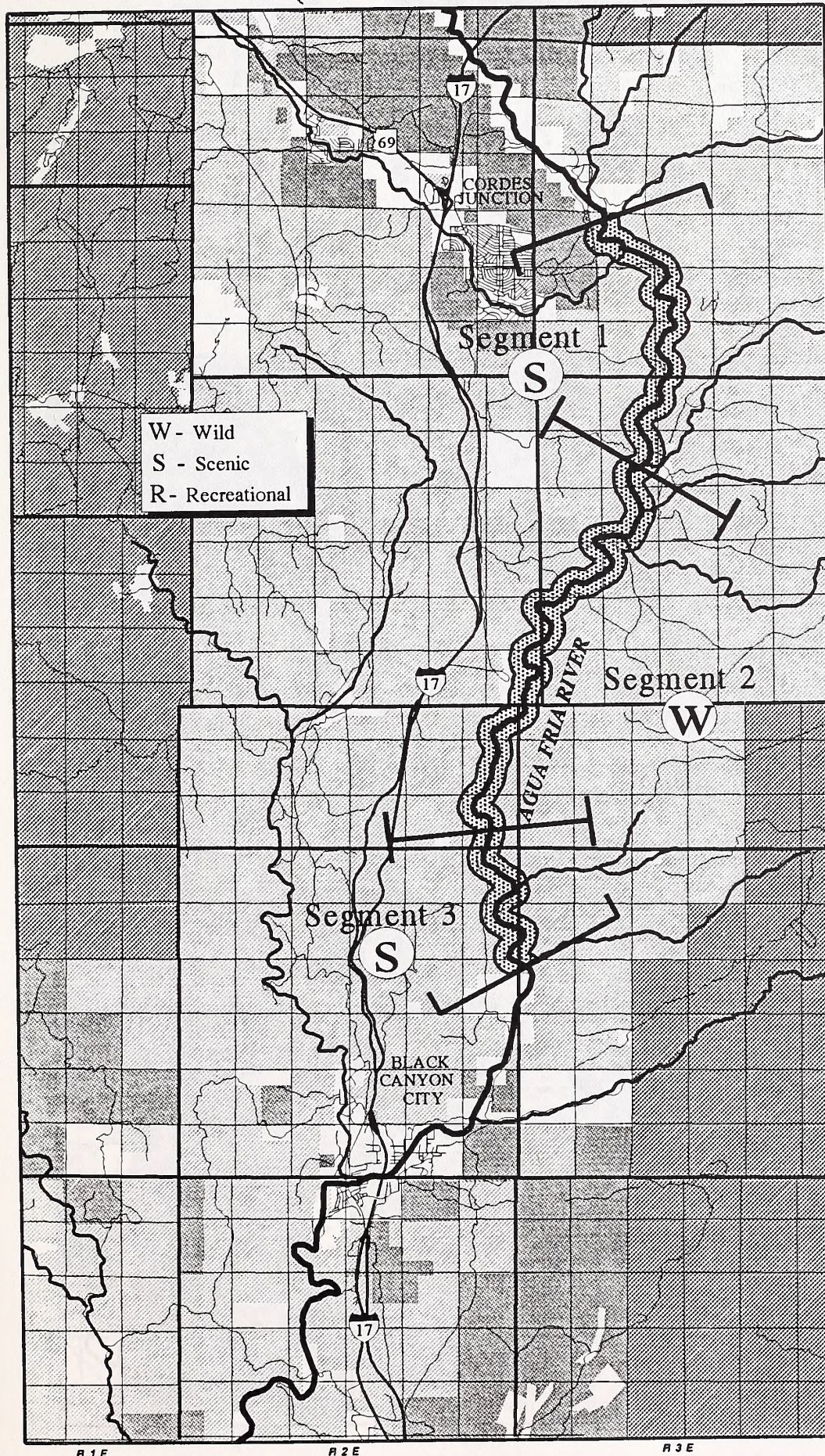
SANTA MARIA RIVER

(Recommended Alternative)



AGUA FRIA RIVER

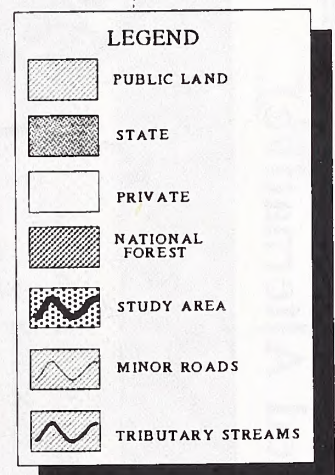
(Recommended Alternative)



W - Wild
S - Scenic
R - Recreational



LOCATION DIAGRAM



SCALE



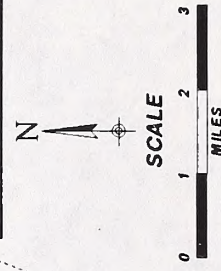
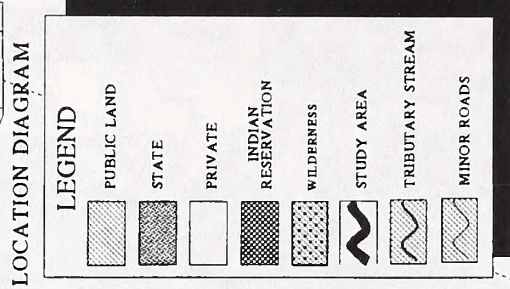
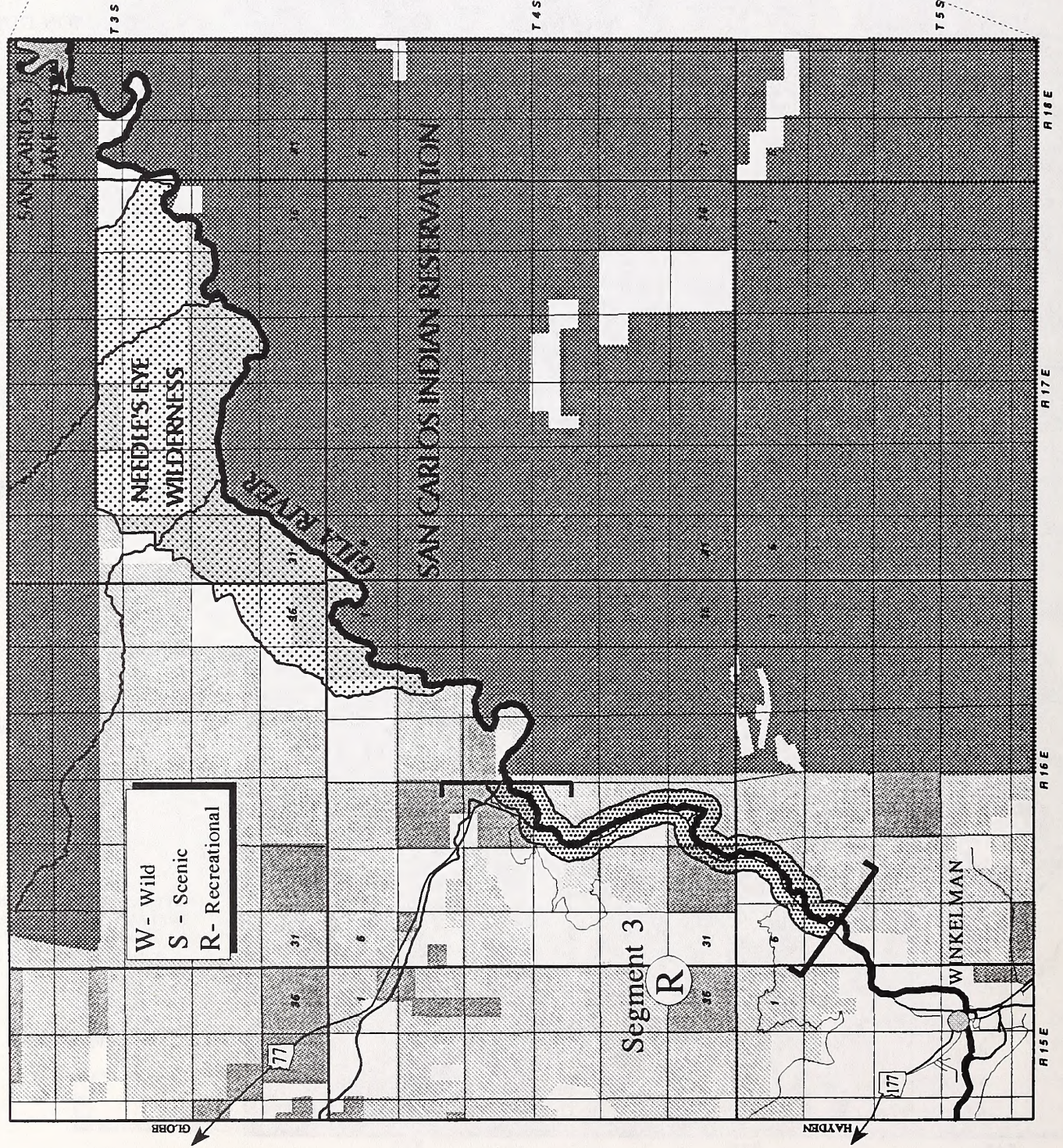
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
PHOENIX RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 4-7

GILA RIVER (MIDDLE)

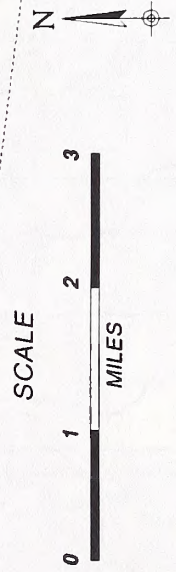
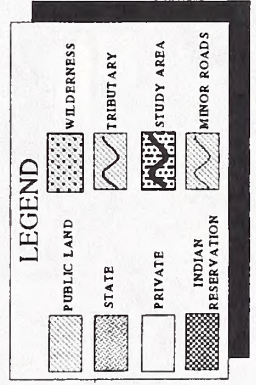
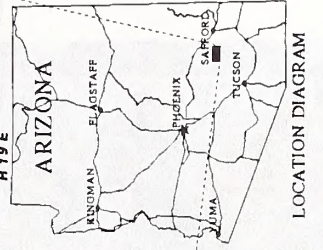
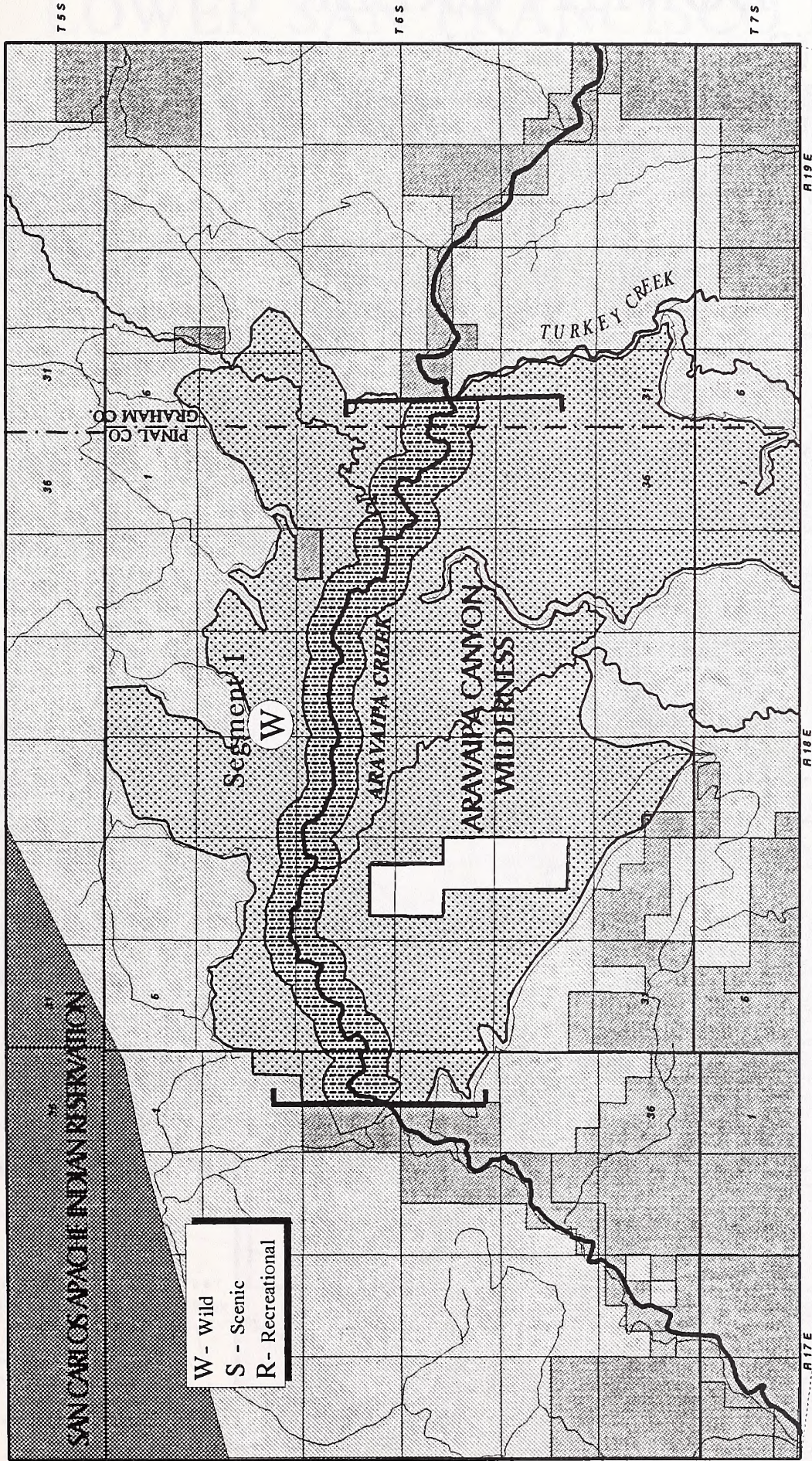
(Recommended Alternative)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PHOENIX DISTRICT
PHOENIX RESOURCE AREA
October 1994
MAP 4-8

ARAVAIPA CREEK

(Recommended Alternative)



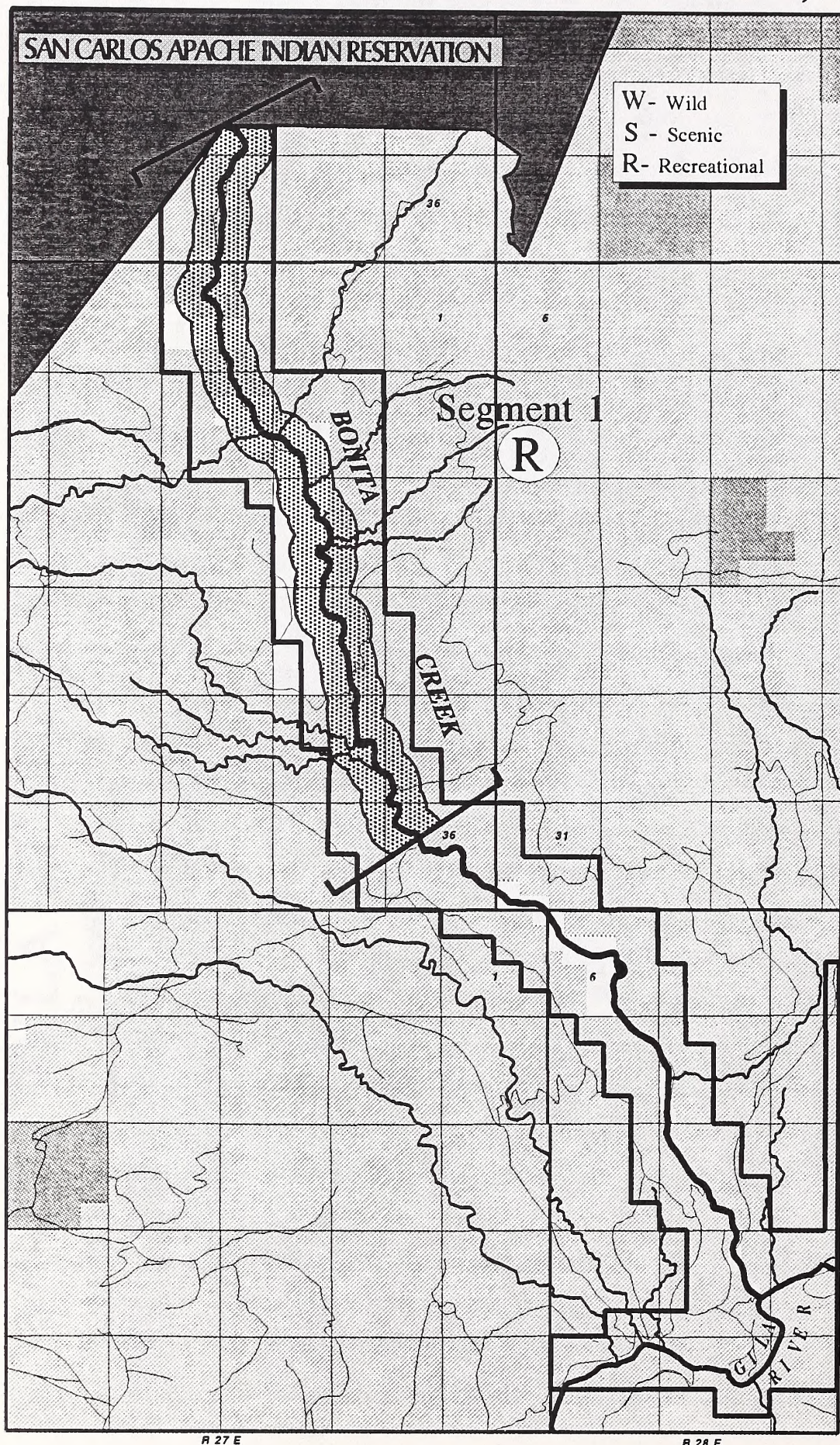
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

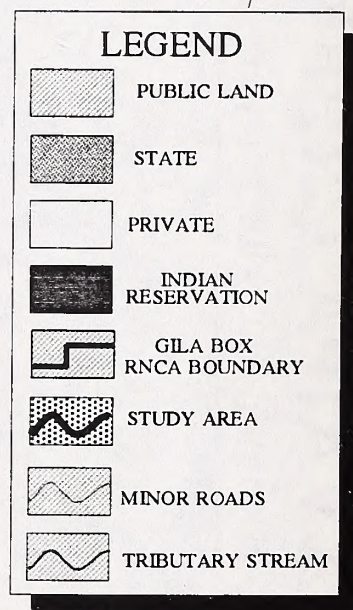
MAP 4-9

BONITA CREEK

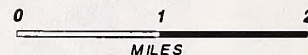
(Recommended Alternative)



LOCATION DIAGRAM



SCALE



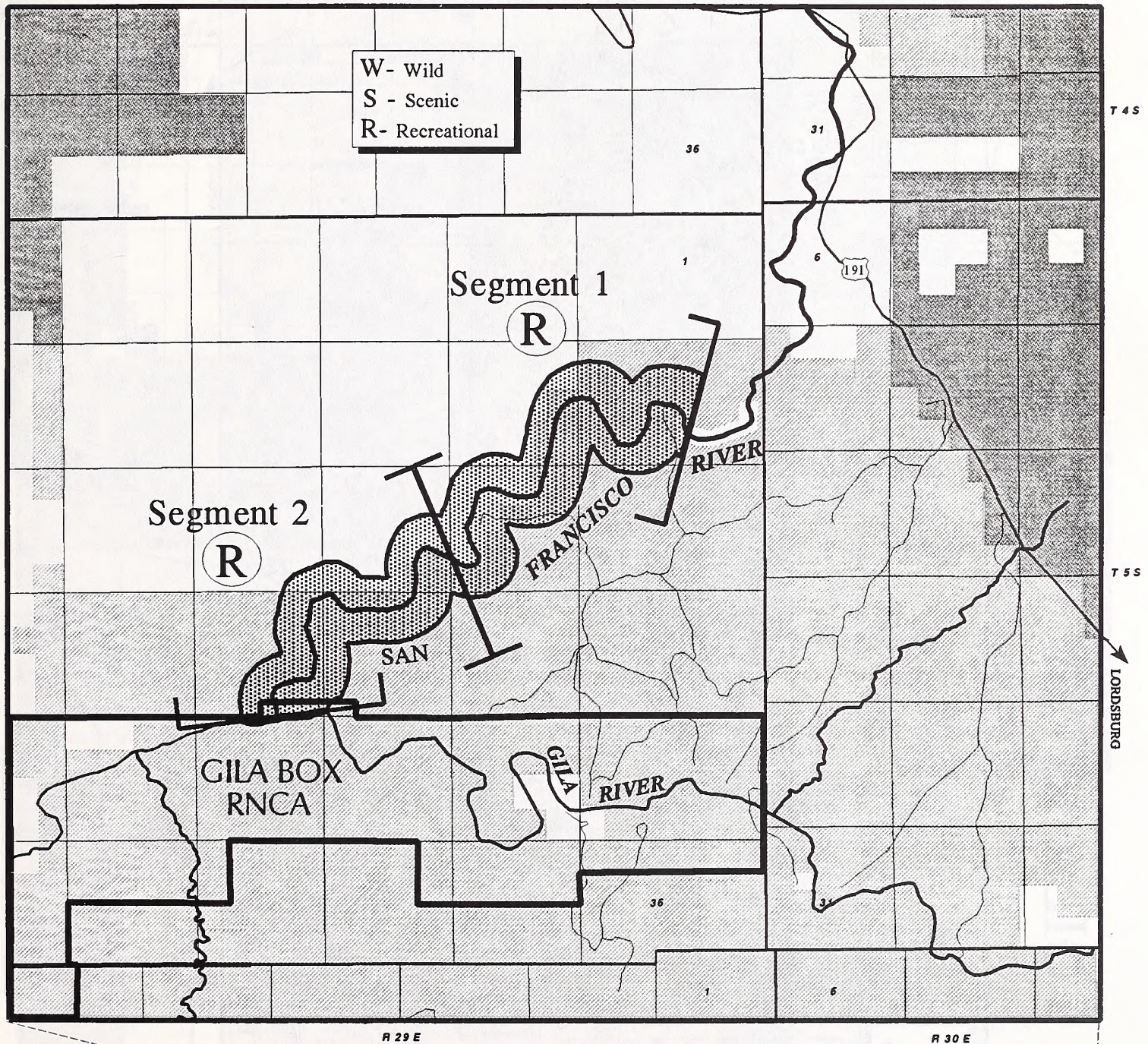
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 4-10

LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER

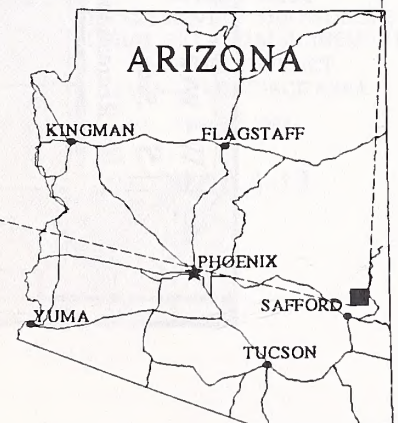
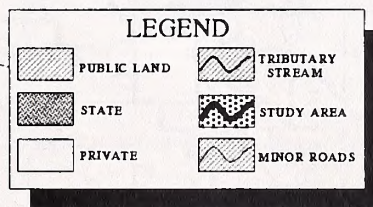
(Recommended Alternative)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

October 1994

MAP 4-11



W - Wild
S - Scenic
R - Recreational

CLIFTON 4 MILES

0 1 2 3 4

T55 T65

R28E R29E

GREENLEE CO. GRAHAM CO. COCONINO CO.

SAN FRANCISCO RIVER

EAGLE CREEK

BONITA CREEK

GILA RIVER

GILA BOX RNCA

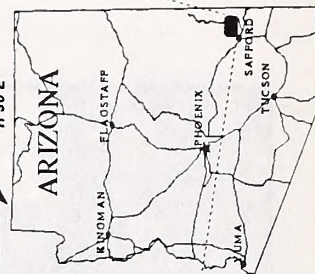
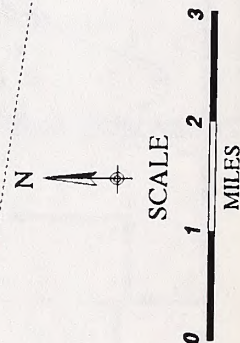
Segment 1 (R)

Segment 2 (S)

Segment 3 (R)

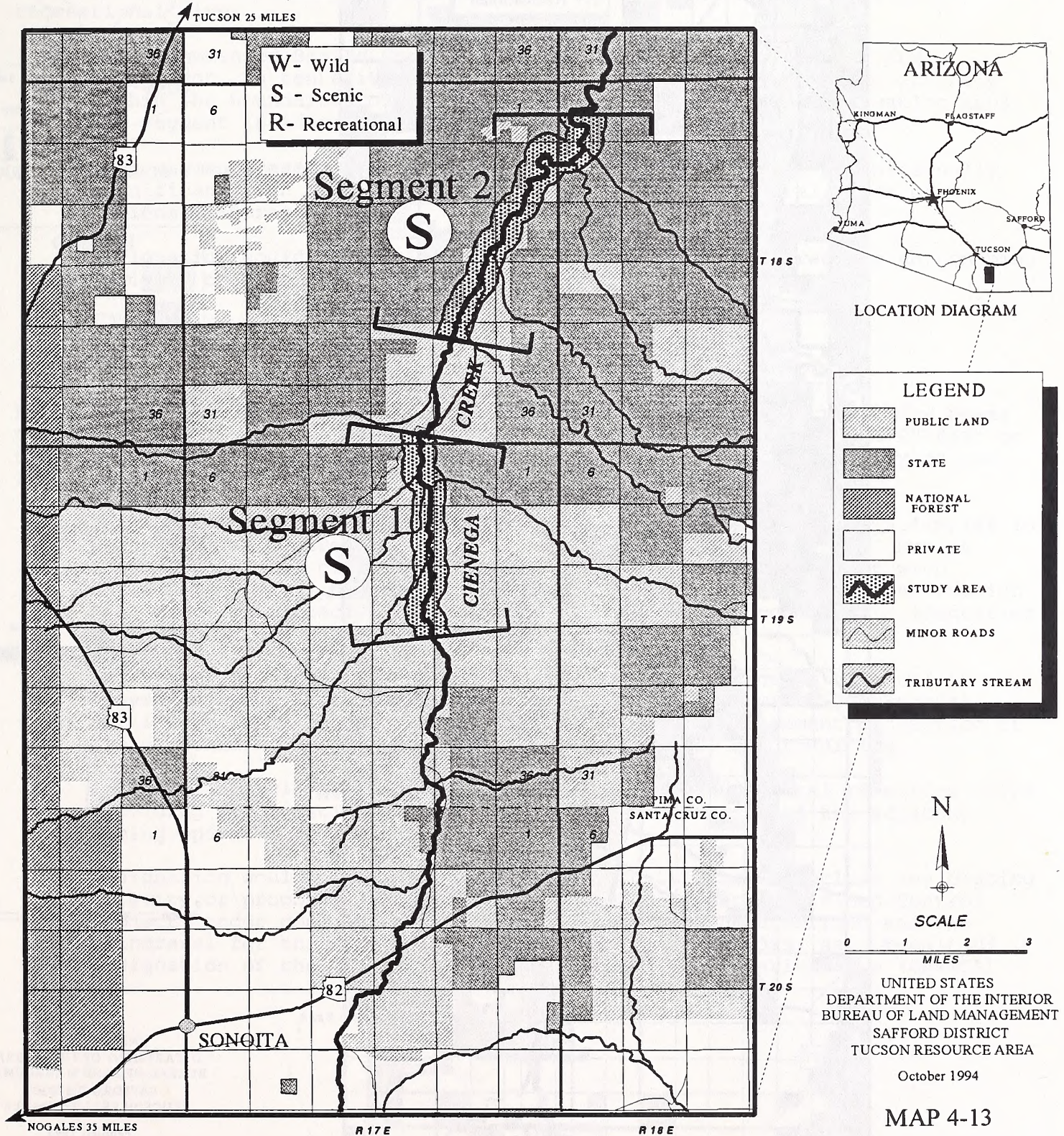
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
GILA RESOURCE AREA

MAP 4-12

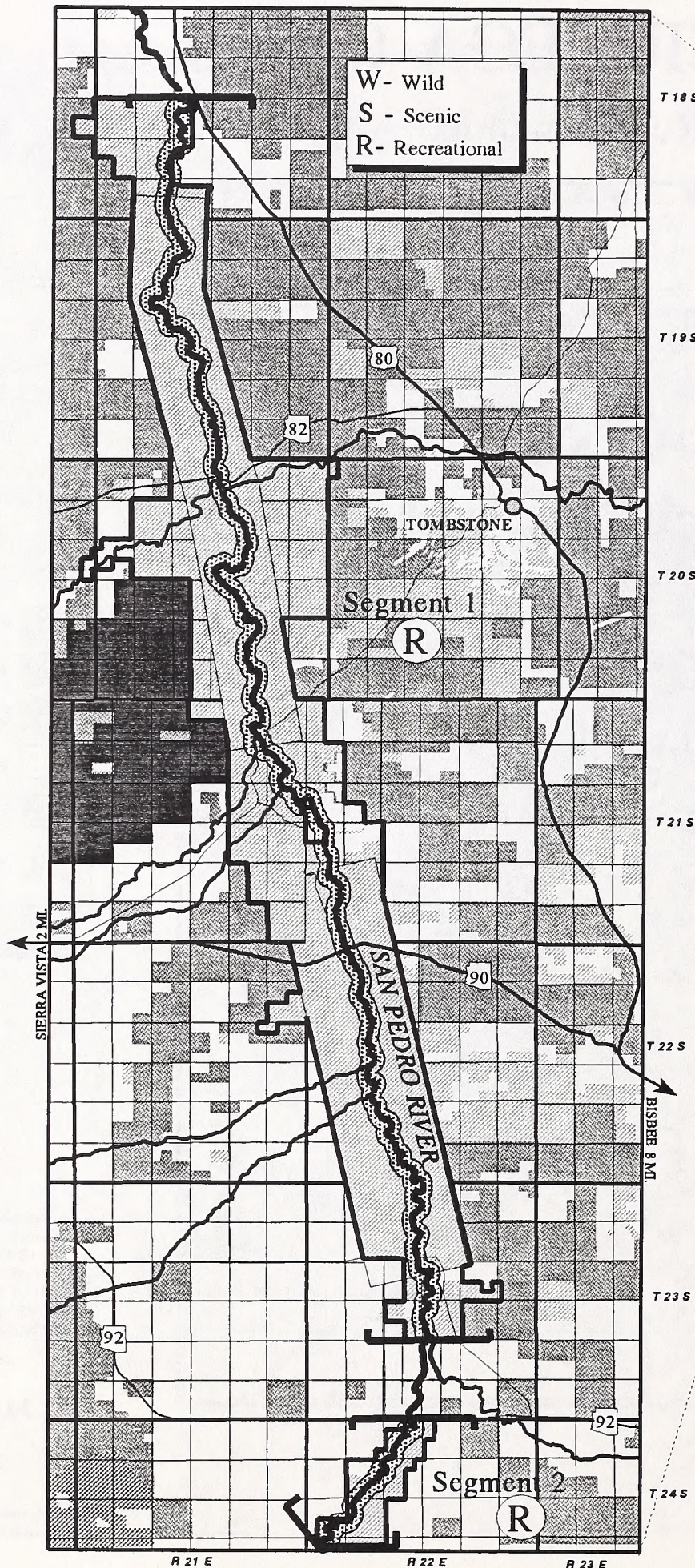


CIENEGA CREEK

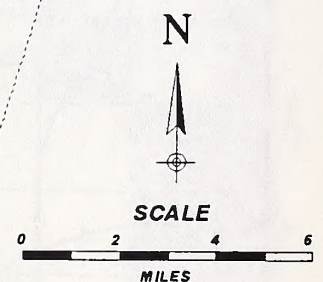
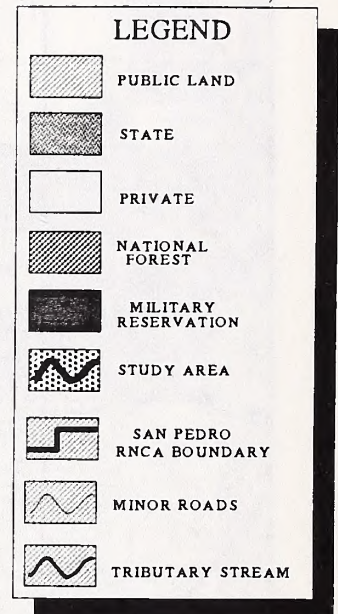
(Recommended Alternative)



SAN PEDRO RIVER (Recommended Alternative)



LOCATION DIAGRAM



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
SAFFORD DISTRICT
TUCSON RESOURCE AREA

February 1995

MAP 4-14

BONITA CREEK, ARIZONA.---The 8.1-mile segment from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation-Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area boundary to the Lee Trail Road; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river.

The recommended Bonita Creek River corridor includes 5.4 under BLM management, is tentatively classified as "recreational," and is entirely within the boundaries of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area. The segment is identified as "Segment 1" on Map 4-10.

This segment deserves protection, under the NWSRS, due to the nationally significant fish and wildlife habitat, and unique cultural sites of national importance.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 6.4-mile segment from the 230kv power transmission line right-of-way in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 29 East to the confluence with the Gila River; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river.

The recommended Lower San Francisco River corridor consists of 5.4 miles in under federal ownership, is tentatively classified as "scenic," but is recommended to be classified as "recreational" to be consistent with management actions proposed in the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Draft Interdisciplinary Plan. The recommended corridor is identified as "Segments 1 and 2" on Map 4-11.⁸

This river is nationally and regionally significant due to the role it played in the exploration and settlement of the Southwest. The federal portions of this segment would benefit by special management protection of the outstanding hydrologic values and recreational opportunities.

Inclusion of this segment would protect significant natural resources while providing for existing recreational uses and operation of the adjacent mining operations at Morenci.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity. The proposed Camelback Dam Flood Control Project, under consideration since 1961, has been deauthorized and the withdrawal for this purpose was removed on April 7, 1995, as a result of designation of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (GBRNCA).

⁸The Lower San Francisco River (All Suitable Alternative) Map in the *FLEIS* Rivers Appendix; pg. 418, incorrectly shows the portion of the river corridor originally determined eligible. The correct maps are included in the *Study Report* (Maps 2-15 and 4-11).

GILA RIVER (GILA BOX), ARIZONA.---The 26.6-mile segment from the public land boundary in Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 30 East to the western boundary of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

Segment 1: The 6.9-mile segment from Lots 9 and 10, Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 30 East to Section 26 SW¼, Township 5 South, Range 29 East to, as a recreational river; and

Segment 2: The 15.2-mile segment from Section 26 SW¼, Township 5 South, Range 29 East to Section 22 NW¼, Township 6 South, Range 28 East, as a scenic river; and

Segment 3: The 4.5-mile segment from Section 22 NW¼, Township 6 South, Range 28 East to the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area boundary, as a recreational river.

The Gila River (Gila Box) would be a worthy addition to the NWSRS because of the river's role in the settlement of the nation, the Southwest, and Arizona. Designation could enhance the protection of riparian, cultural, and related cultural and natural resources and the management of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area. The segments (1-3) described above are identified on Map 4-12.

Segments 1 and 3 are tentatively classified as "scenic," and segment 2 is tentatively classified as "wild," but these segments are recommended to be classified as shown above to be consistent with management actions proposed in the GBRNCA Draft Interdisciplinary Plan.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity. The proposed Camelback Dam Flood Control Project, under consideration since 1961, has been deauthorized and the withdrawal for this purpose was removed on April 7, 1995, as a result of designation of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area.

CIENEGA CREEK, ARIZONA.---The two separated segments and two tributaries, totaling 10.5-miles; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a scenic river:

(1) The 3.0-mile segment from the section line between Sections 15 and 22, Township 19 South, Range 17 East to the township line between Townships 18 South and 19 South, Range 17 East and the 1.0-mile segment of Empire Gulch; and

(2) The 5.5-mile segment from section line between Sections 23 and 26, Township 18 South, Range 17 East to the center of Section 6, Township 18 South, Range 18 East and the 1.0-mile segment of Mattie Canyon.

Cienega Creek has outstandingly remarkable essential habitat for the Gila top minnow federally-listed as endangered. NWSRS designation will provide additional special management protection. Two tributaries, Empire Gulch and Mattie Canyon, fall within the river corridor, and each contributes year-round flow to Cienega Creek. Each should also be considered segments within the NWSRS, but additional acreage would not be added to the NWSRS by their listing. The segments described above are identified on Map 4-13.⁹

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

⁹The Cienega Creek (Recommended Alternative) map in the *FLEIS Rivers Appendix*; pg. 235 does not show the recommended river corridor, as described in the text. It is correctly shown in the Study Report, Maps 2-19 and 4-13.

SAN PEDRO RIVER, ARIZONA.---The two separated segments, totaling 44.0-miles, from the United States-Mexico International boundary to the northern most boundary of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river:

- (1) The 3.0-mile segment from the United States-Mexico International boundary to the northern boundary of the southern block of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area; and
- (2) The 41.0-mile segment within the northern block of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area.

The San Pedro River deserves recognition in the NWSRS because it is a nationally prominent riparian ecosystem and ranks as the top area in the western hemisphere for paleontological sites associated with early mankind. Though the area is not currently threatened by water, mining, or residential developments, future development on adjacent non-federal lands and in Mexico may eventually deplete groundwater supplies to a point of negatively affecting the San Pedro River surface flow.

Designation would not seriously restrict, curtail, or foreclose any ongoing activity or proposed activity.

The remaining 2.0 miles recommended as nonsuitable lie between the southern and northern sections of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. There are unmanageable due to the lack of federal lands or easements, and no acquisition of lands or easements are planned for this segment. The recommended segments (1-2) identified above are identified on Map 4-14.

IMPACTS OF THE RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

The *DLEIS* and *FLEIS* effort focused on the impacts that would result from implementing the alternatives of recommending designation for all, portions, or none of the BLM river study areas. The alternatives were developed in response to the issues associated with protecting outstandingly remarkable values through wild and scenic river designation. Refer to *FLEIS* for additional details.

It is important to remember that whether these river areas are designated or not, management of these river areas will continue. Arizona BLM is currently implementing a number of resource management and activity plans that preserve and protect riparian areas. For example, management actions prescribed in the riparian national conservation areas or wilderness areas provide protection for riparian zones. Similarly, management of the riparian areas of critical environmental concern includes protective measures for riparian areas.

The analysis of impacts of wild and scenic river designation, therefore, was not separated from these ongoing planning efforts and management actions. In the impact analysis of each alternative of each river area, consideration was given to how the ongoing action would affect and be affected by the implementation of the alternatives. The method of analysis centered on the combination of rivers and the total acreage involved in each issue addressed in the environmental impact statement. The following summarizes the conclusions reached on the impacts of implementing the recommended alternative for the major areas of concern. Consult *FLEIS* Chapter 4, pg. 69-95, for complete documentation of the assumptions and the impacts from implementing the recommended alternative.

Socioeconomic Impacts

The BLM concluded that because the recommended wild and scenic river designations would occur on public lands, a majority of which is already protected by wilderness or national conservation area designations, that socioeconomic impacts of designation would be minimal.

BLM found that impacts on tourism would be slightly beneficial, especially to Graham and Greenlee Counties, even though there was some concern expressed about perceived adverse impacts on the socioeconomic of communities, especially in Graham and Greenlee counties.

Refer to Section 6 of this study report, Chapter 5 of the *FLEIS*, and specific responses to the *FLEIS* duplicated *FLEIS* Public Review Comments (August 1995).

Impacts on Mineral Development

There would be minor adverse impact on mineral development on public lands, resulting from 8,230 acres being designated as "wild." Not including 46,600 acres already in wilderness and national conservation areas, mineral withdrawal would result from Wild River designation, with 2,630 acres having a moderate to high mineral potential, 4,360 acres having moderate potential, and 1,240 acres having low to moderate potential. Table 4-4 identifies the river areas and acreage where additional mineral withdrawals would result from the recommended alternative.

TABLE 4-4

ADDITIONAL MINERAL WITHDRAWALS
DUE TO DESIGNATION

RIVER AREA	MINERAL POTENTIAL	ACRES
Burro Creek	Low	500
Burro Creek	Moderate	1130
Burro Creek	Moderate/High	2630
Santa Maria	Low/Moderate	740
Agua Fria River	Moderate	3230

Impact on Private Lands

There would be no foreseeable impact on private land, within either the final wild and scenic river corridor, or adjacent to the final wild and scenic river corridor. The WSRA does not authorize the federal government to regulate or control activities on private lands.

Impacts on Water Rights

There would be no impact on valid, existing water rights in the recommended streams. The WSRA creates a federal reserved water right for a quantity of water sufficient to meet the purposes of the act on designated rivers, with a priority date based on date of designation. If designated, the Bureau would then have the responsibility to preserve each designated segment in its free-flowing condition and to protect its outstandingly remarkable values. The quantity of water necessary to fulfill that responsibility would be determined through assessments of instream flow.

A new federal reserved water right could be asserted, based on the date of designated, but would be junior to all valid and existing rights. This action would have no impact on upstream or downstream because it would be junior to any existing right.

Impacts on Water Resources Projects

Under the recommended alternative, dams, levees, and other types of diversions would be prohibited on 211 miles riparian miles on 13 river areas, with protective management of the Arizona portion of the Virgin River continuing until Congress acts of the recommendation to complete a coordinated "study report" for the entire Virgin River area in three states.

Review of the *FLEIS* by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission concluded "that there are no licensed or exempted projects in the areas of concern." But the letter further stated:

Under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Commission is prohibited from licensing hydroelectric projects that would be on or would directly affect rivers that have been designated or are being studied for possible designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Under this section we also are prevented from licensing project works above or below a component of the system, if the project works would "invade" or "unreasonably diminish" the scenic, recreational, or fish and wildlife values present in the river area on October 2, 1968.

See Letter 53 in an accompanying document, *FLEIS Public Review Comments* (August 1995).

During governmental review of the Draft *Study Report*, the Corps of Engineers (COE) commented through the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Interior they were concerned about whether the proposed designation would preclude installing rain and stream gaging equipment, as generally proposed in the development of a statewide flood warning system. They requested that a provision be added to the proposed legislation that "would allow installation of rain and stream gaging equipment, and access to that equipment, for flood warning system purposes, and, because of the presence of flood control works downstream of some of the designated sites, for other flood control purposes."

BLM has not added any language to the proposed legislation (Appendix 1 of the *Study Report*), because Section 7 of the WSRA of 1968 addresses how to handle non-Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licensed water resource projects, which are only prohibited if they would have a "direct and adverse effect" on the values for which the river was added to the system. While the BLM has not added such a provision as suggested by the COE, this would not preclude the COE from introducing such a bill, or suggesting such a provision during the introduction or during markup once a bill is enrolled by the House or Senate.

Cumulative Impacts of the Recommended Alternative

A cumulative impact is defined as the impact on the environment resulting from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other action. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Assessing the cumulative impacts of designation involved several assumptions:

- Wild and scenic river management actions are restricted to public lands in Arizona managed by the Bureau of Land Management.
- Portions of the study river under nonfederal ownership or management would be excluded.
- Congressional action to include the rivers in the National Wild and Scenic River System would not affect use of private property.
- Designation does not open nonfederal lands to public access. The right to buy and sell property will not be affected.
- Ongoing management actions currently being implemented for wilderness areas, national conservation areas, and areas of critical environmental concern would occur on Bureau of Land Management lands in which the study areas are located.

The following conclusions summarize the cumulative impacts from implementing the recommended alternative. Refer to the *FLEIS*, Chapter 4, pp. 92-94.

- Beneficial cumulative impact on the identified outstandingly remarkable values.
- Minor adverse cumulative impacts on minerals development.
- Minor beneficial cumulative impact on tourism.
- No irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources.
- No unavoidable adverse effects.

The reader is referred to Chapters 3 (Affected Environment) and Chapters 4 (Environmental Consequences) of the *FLEIS* and the *FLEIS Rivers Appendix* for a complete discussion on river values and environmental impacts of all alternatives. The reader should also consult the *FLEIS*; Chapter 4 (pp. 94-141) for discussions and details on the impacts of all suitable, the legislative protection, and the no action alternative.

TABLE 4-5

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS
ON OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES
FOR RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES	AFFECTED AREA	IMPACTS
Scenic	69,850 acres	No adverse impacts. Long term beneficial impacts
Recreational	54,330 acres	No adverse impacts. Beneficial impacts. Non suitable areas expected to be protected through wilderness and ACEC designations.
Geologic	17,870 acres	No adverse impacts, except 424 acres in the Lower San Francisco River Study Area would not be under protection of WSRA.
Fish, Wildlife, Aquatic Habitat	75,340 acres	No adverse impacts. Beneficial Impacts. In areas not protected by WSR, Wilderness, or ACEC designation, degradation of values could occur because of increasing demand on public land resources.
Cultural, Historic, Paleontological	45,656 acres	No adverse impacts. Long term beneficial impacts.
Hydrologic	8,910 acres	No adverse impacts. Complements the legislative protection associated with riparian national conservation areas. 424 acres in the Lower San Francisco River Study Area would not be under protection of WSRA.

Source: FLEIS, pg. 69-85.

SECTION 5

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

BLM's recommendation for wild and scenic river designations takes into account not only the protection of riparian areas and impacts of designation, but also takes into account other factors regarding the management of those river areas. The primary areas of consideration are the manageability of river segments, the land ownership of the river corridor areas, the protection afforded by other designations, and the projected costs to manage these river segments as components of the NWSRS.

Land Ownership of Recommended River Corridor

Though the recommended alternative includes non-federal lands in the river corridor, wild and scenic river prescriptions would pertain to federal lands only. However, by including these areas within the river corridor, the opportunities to acquire, exchange, or enter into cooperative agreements with the adjacent land owners for wild and scenic river purposes may arise in the future. The approximate state and private land acreage within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the mean high water mark, by river area is found in table 5-1. Chart 5-1 illustrates the same information, with the addition of the Arizona portion of the Virgin River. Final corridor boundaries would be established after designation.

TABLE 5-1

LAND OWNERSHIP IN RECOMMENDED RIVER AREAS¹⁰

RIVER AREA NAME	BLM	STATE	PRIVATE	TOTAL
Paria River	8,960	0	0	8,960
Big Sandy	2,190	0	730	2,920
Burro Creek	7,010	0	480	7,490
Bill Williams	4,650	703	684	6,037
Santa Maria	4,840	0	610	5,450
Agua Fria River	6,710	0	450	7,160
Gila River (Middle)	1,780	330	220	2,330
Aravaipa Creek	3,200	0	0	3,200
Bonita Creek	1,810	0	490	2,300
Lower San Francisco	1,450	0	570	2,020
Gila River (Gila Box)	7,460	0	500	7,960
Cienega Creek	3,200	160	0	3,360
San Pedro River	12,256	0	1,840	14,096
TOTALS	65,516 (89%)	1,193 (2%)	6,574 (9%)	73,283

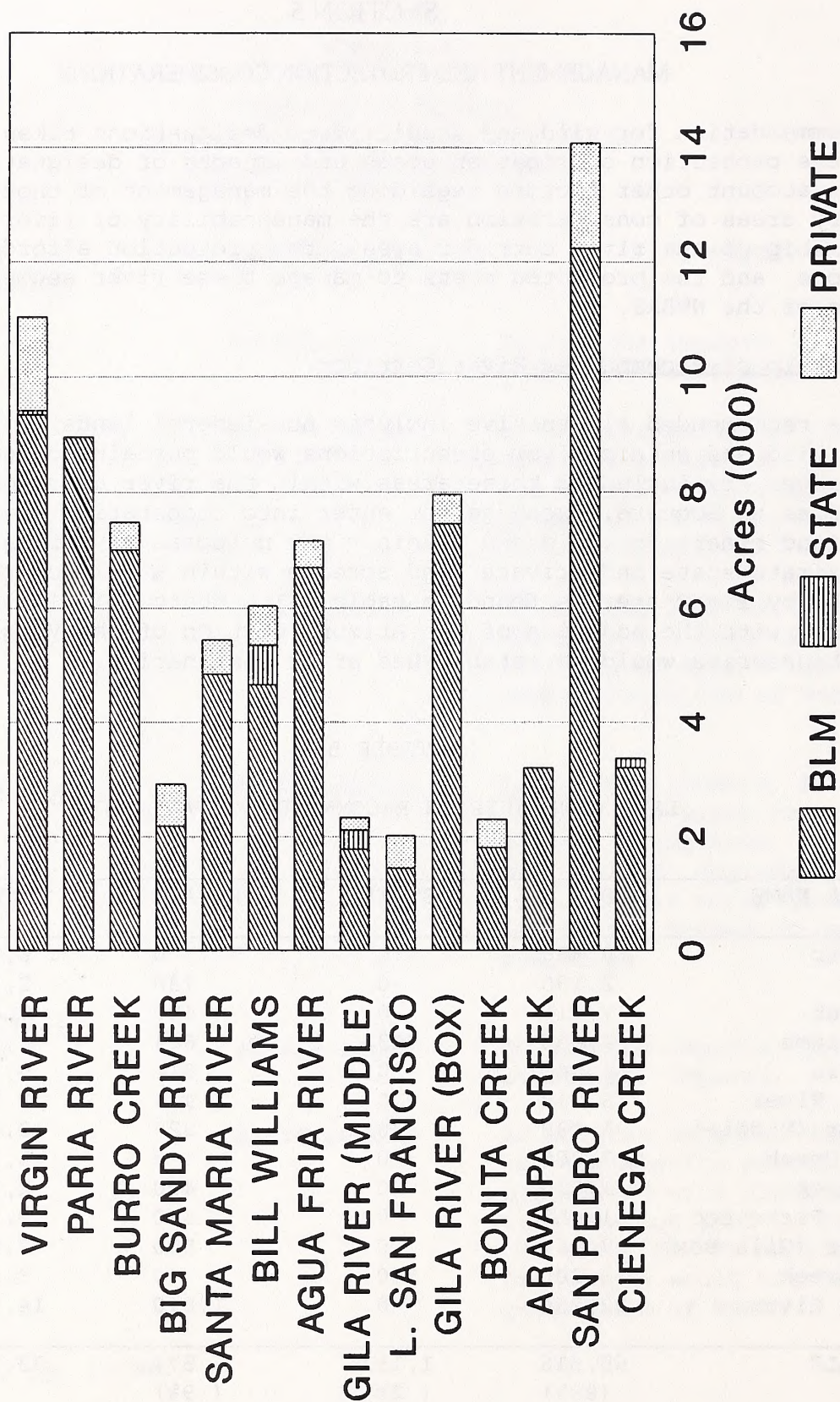
Source: *FLEIS Rivers Appendix* (1994)
Suitability Assessment Reports (1993)

¹⁰ Table does not include Virgin River Corridor because BLM has not recommended designation.

LAND STATUS

Recommended River Areas

Chart 5-1



Manageability

In the suitability assessments, which established the range of alternatives, the Recommended Alternative was influenced significantly by the ability of the BLM to protect the outstandingly remarkable values. The recommended alternative recommends as suitable 74,860 acres of public lands (including the Virgin River) managed by the BLM. Of this total, 31,480 acres are currently designated as components of the National Wilderness System, and 21,916 acres are designated as National Conservation Areas. More than 70% of the recommended alternative acreage is protected through Congressional designations. An additional 14,456 acres are BLM designated areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), which afford special management to those areas. Chart 5-2 illustrates the degree of protection afforded by other protective designations for each river in the recommended alternative, including the Arizona portion of the Virgin River. The BLM has the ability to manage the recommended river areas as components of the NWSRS, and afford additional protection to riparian areas and identified outstandingly remarkable values.

There are no identified non-conforming uses of public lands identified in the recommended alternative.

Though outstandingly remarkable values exist in those areas outside the recommended "river corridor," BLM excluded several river segments because 1) the pattern or percentage of federal to state and private lands made protection of outstandingly remarkable values unmanageable in those areas, or 2) the river area was adequately protected by other designations or prescriptions.

Those rivers with segments recommended as nonsuitable for reasons related to unmanageability due to large percentages of state or private land ownership are Francis Creek, portions of Burro Creek, portions of Big Sandy River, portions of Santa Maria River, portions of the Hassayampa River, portion of Gila River (Middle), portion of Lower San Francisco River, portions of Bonita Creek, and a portion of the San Pedro River.

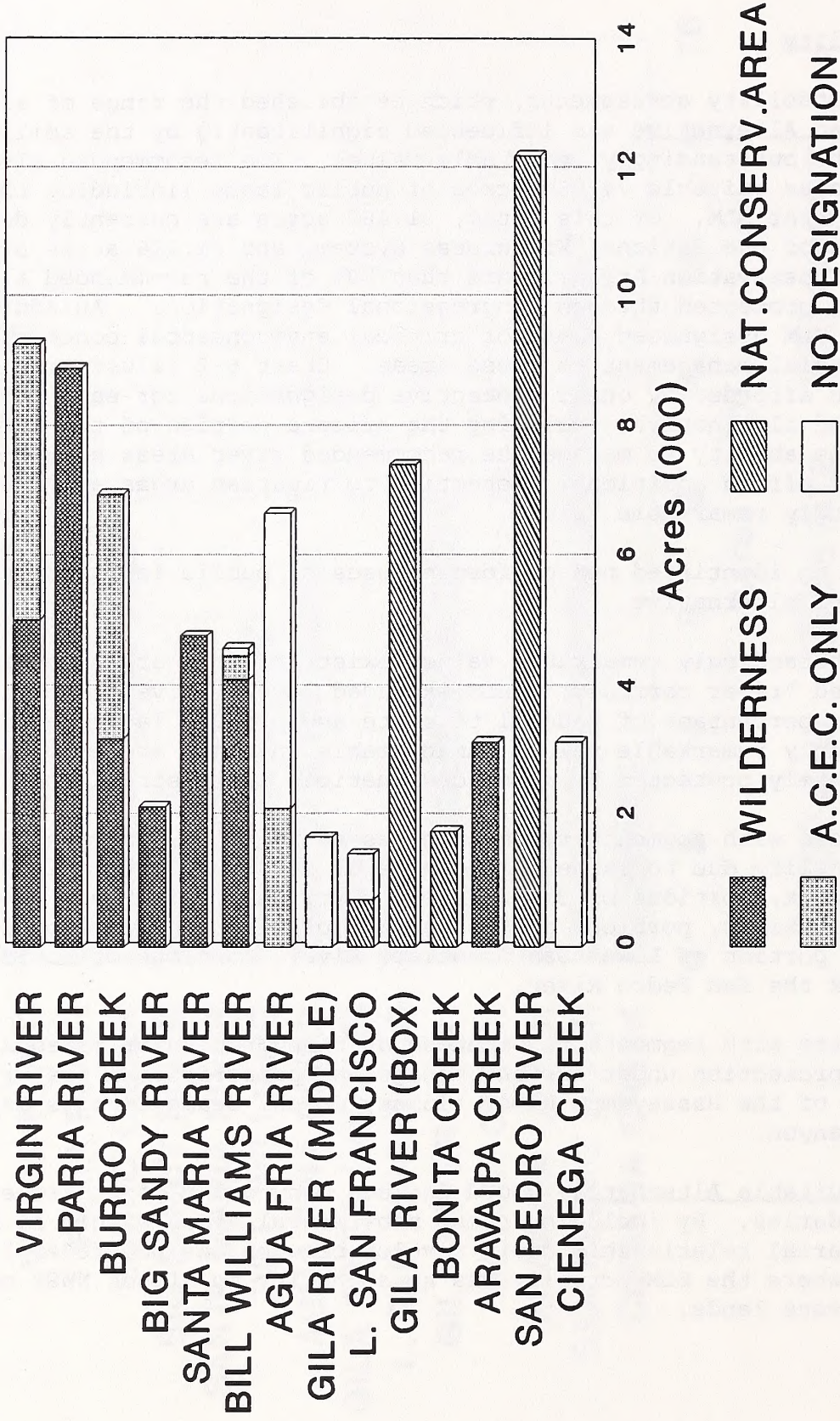
Those rivers with segments recommended as nonsuitable for reasons related to adequate protection under current management prescriptions are Wright Creek, the remainder of the Hassayampa River, Turkey Creek, Swamp Springs Canyon, and Hot Springs Canyon.

The All Suitable Alternative would include many acres of non-federal land within NWSR boundaries. By including these non-federal areas within an NWSR boundary, an adversarial relationship could develop between the non-federal land owner and the BLM, where the BLM actually has no authority to affect NWSR management on these private lands.

OTHER PROTECTIVE DESIGNATIONS

Recommended River Areas

Chart 5-2



(Public Land Acres Only)

The Legislative Protection Alternative would have the same level of manageability for the BLM as the all suitable alternative, but would needlessly break wild and scenic river corridors into smaller segments. Dual designation of NWSR corridor and wilderness or national conservation areas would enhance management in several of the affected areas. Dual or overlapping federal designation, as a single factor, was neither a positive nor a negative factor in determining whether the BLM recommended a particular segment for designation as an NWSR.

Private and State lands would not be included in the NWSRS, although could fall within a river corridor once final boundaries are determined.

Estimate of Costs

This study report presents the estimated costs (in Fiscal Year 1995 dollars) to implement the recommended alternative. The report identifies one-time costs associated with designation as components of the national wild and scenic river system and recurring yearly expenses to administer the national wild and scenic river areas. These costs would be those in excess of expenses required to manage the area under existing management prescriptions.

• One-time Costs to Administer Designated River Areas

Those actions requiring one-time funding strictly due to designation include the following categories:

- Acquisition and exchange of Lands
- Access and Scenic Easements
- Acquisition of Water Rights
- Development of Management Plans
- Initial Implementation
- Facility Development Costs
- Congressional Study Report

Acquisition and exchange of Lands

There are no acquisition requirements needed in order to implement wild and scenic river management in the recommended alternative. In some cases, individual river environmental impact statements identify where efforts would be made to acquire state or private land on a willing seller-willing buyer basis or by exchange. Since these would be carried out as part of District Acquisition Plans, and protection of wild and scenic river values are not dependent upon such properties, no costs are identified.

Access and Scenic Easements

There are no identified needs for either access or scenic easements in order to implement wild and scenic river management in the recommended alternative.

Acquisition of Water Rights

There are no identified needs to acquire water rights for wild and scenic river management purposes.

Development of Management Plans

If the recommended alternative was approved by Congress, BLM would be required to prepare management plans for 13 river areas within three fiscal years of designation. BLM Arizona is currently shifting from single resource activity planning to interdisciplinary planning for ecosystem areas. It is likely that if the 13 river areas were designated, river management planning would be accomplished in the following manner:

Paria River:

The Canyons and Plateaus of Paria Resource Conservation Area Interdisciplinary Plan, scheduled for Fiscal Year 1997, would incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outline in *Rivers Appendix* pg. 491-493.

Burro Creek, Big Sandy River, Santa Maria River:

Update/revise Three Rivers Ecosystem Management Plan to incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 70-73, 181-185, and 556-557.

Bill Williams River:

Prepare an interdisciplinary plan for the Bill Williams Management Unit, which includes the Swansea and Rawhide Mountains Wildernesses. The plan will incorporate wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix*, pp. 107-110.

Agua Fria River:

Prepare an interdisciplinary plan in conjunction with Agua Fria Grassland planning effort or Black Canyon Corridor and incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 8-11.

Gila River (Middle):

Prepare interdisciplinary plan for 232,000 acre Middle Gila Management Unit and incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 455-458.

Lower San Francisco, Gila River (Gila Box), Bonita Creek:

Update Gila Box National Conservation Area Interdisciplinary Management Plan and incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 140-143, 297-299, and 414-417.

Aravaipa Creek:

Prepare interdisciplinary plan for 70,000 acre Aravaipa Canyon Ecosystem Management Plan and incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 46-48.

Cienega Creek:

Prepare interdisciplinary plan for acre Empire-Cienega Ecosystem Management Area and incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 234-236.

San Pedro River:

Amend interdisciplinary plan for San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and incorporate proposed wild and scenic river management actions, as outlined in *Rivers Appendix* pp. 518-520.

It is estimated that the recommended alternative would result in \$160,000 in cost for incorporating wild and scenic river management into existing or proposed interdisciplinary plans. See Table 5-2 for a breakdown of costs.

Initial Implementation

Costs related to initial implementation are the first time costs of boundary identification and survey, map development, and the initial signing at key access points. Because much of the wild and scenic river corridors would overlay wilderness and national conservation areas, and in remote areas, surveys would not be required in all designated areas. Final boundary alignment and required surveys would be established during the preparation of the river management plans. The costs for initial implementation are based on suitability assessment reports. The estimated amount is approximately \$420,000 for initial implementation.

Facility Development Costs

Major facility development costs, due to wild and scenic river designation, are anticipated only in two study areas, the Lower San Francisco and Gila Box. An estimated \$250,000 would be required for visitor facilities within the river corridor and development of livestock fences and upland waters. These developments would be needed to protect outstandingly remarkable riparian values. Developments would not be constructed, however, until river management planning was completed, as outlined above. Minor developments, such as kiosks and information boards could be expected in some of the river areas. Total additional costs for minor developments would be approximately \$35,000.

Congressional Study Report

The recommended alternative includes recommending the Virgin River, in its entirety in three states, as a Congressionally designated "study river." Such a authorization, under Section 5(a) of the WSRA, would require federal agencies (BLM, NPS) to follow the requirements of Section 4(a) of the WSRA which requires the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to jointly study and submit to the President a report on the suitability and nonsuitability of the various sections of the Virgin River. This study will be coordinated with any water resources planning involving the Virgin River which is being conducted pursuant to the Water Resources Planning Act in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada. If joint study is requested by any state prior to designation as a potential wild and scenic river, and the study is to include a determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivision might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion, then the study will be pursued in as close cooperation with the appropriate agencies of the affected States and its political subdivisions as possible, as required by Section 5(c) of the WSRA.

Because the issue of wild and scenic river designation of the Virgin River is an important issue to the three affected States and its political subdivisions, to conservation groups seeking protection, and to the agencies within the Department of Interior, the Wild and Scenic River Study Report is likely to be both detailed and controversial. For this reason, it is estimated that the total cost to federal agencies to complete the study is \$300,000 over a three year period. If this recommendation is adopted by Congress, affected federal agencies will provide more detailed estimates for Congress' consideration and funding assessment.

- **Yearly Costs to Administer Designated River Areas**

In addition to the one time costs described in the previous section, there are additional yearly costs to the BLM for various aspects of administration and management of the designated sections of river. These categories of costs include General Administration and Operation and Maintenance.

General Administration

This category includes costs to fund management actions, including visitor services, law enforcement patrols, processing visitor information and customer services, and monitoring of outstandingly remarkable values.

Operation and Maintenance

This category includes costs to maintain visitor use sites, facilities, signs, and river areas.

Costs for yearly administration, operation, and maintenance are shown in Table 5-3, which total an estimated \$350,000 per year.

Table 5-2

Additional One-time Costs to
Administer Designated and Study River Rivers
(\$000)

RIVER AREA NAME	MANAGEMENT PLANS	INITIAL IMPLEMENT- ATION	DEVELOPMENT COSTS	STUDY REPORT	TOTAL
Virgin River	-	-	-	300	300
Paria River	10	5	0	-	15
Big Sandy River	5	25	5	-	35
Burro Creek	10	35	5	-	50
Bill Williams River	10	70	5	-	85
Santa Maria River	5	25	5	-	35
Agua Fria River	10	75	5	-	90
Gila River (Middle)	10	60	5	-	75
Aravaipa Creek	5	5	0	-	10
Bonita Creek	20	0	0	-	20
Lower San Francisco	40	50	100	-	190
Gila River (Gila Box)	20	50	150	-	220
Cienega Creek	10	20	5	-	35
San Pedro River	5	0	0	-	5
Totals	160	420	335	300	1,215

Table 5-3

Additional Yearly Costs to
Administer the Designated Rivers
(\$000)

RIVER AREA NAME	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	TOTAL
Paria River	5	5	10
Big Sandy River	5	5	10
Burro Creek	15	5	20
Bill Williams	10	5	15
Santa Maria River	5	5	10
Agua Fria River	15	15	30
Gila River (Middle)	15	20	35
Aravaipa Creek	5	0	5
Bonita Creek	5	5	10
Lower San Francisco	10	10	20
Gila River (Gila Box)	40	20	60
Cienega Creek	10	20	30
San Pedro River	40	20	60
Totals	180	135	315

SECTION 6

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECORD

The BLM has undertaken concerted efforts to inform and involve the public in each step of the wild and scenic river evaluation process in Arizona. Additional details can be found in the *FLEIS* (Chapter 5 - Consultation and Coordination).

Beginning with the normal procedures in producing resource management plans and plan amendments, public review of the eligibility determination and tentative classification occurred between 1987 and 1994.

In January and February 1993, BLM participated with the Arizona Congressional Delegation, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service in 5 Congressional Information Meetings, held in Phoenix, Kingman, Payson, Thatcher, and Tucson.

Preparation of the environmental impact statement for suitability began in February 1993. A Federal Register Notice was published February 19, 1993 (Vol. 58, No. 32; pg. 9213) announcing the Intent to Prepare a Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for Suitability/Nonsuitability Recommendations for Inclusion of Arizona Rivers in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Fourteen public scoping meetings were held during March and April 1993. These meetings were held in Parker, Bagdad, Kingman, Wickenburg, Winkleman, Tucson, Phoenix, Benson, Clifton, Safford, Klondyke, Sierra Vista, Sonoita, and St. George, Utah.

Suitability Assessment Reports on individual river areas were prepared by field offices between March and September 1993. Meetings were scheduled with representatives on federal and state agencies which could be affected, as well as with local and county officials. Copies of Suitability Assessments are part of the administrative record and are available for review at BLM Arizona offices.

At the state level, BLM met with the Arizona Departments of Lands and Environmental Quality. Section 7 reviews have been initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other consultation and coordination efforts have included meetings with U.S. Forest Service, the Dams and Flood Control Committee of the Arizona State Legislature, and the Arizona Association of Conservation Districts.

A Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (*DLEIS*) was issued in April 1994 for a 90-day public comment period. A Federal Register Notice was filed on April 8, 1994 (Vol. 59, No. 68, pg. 16808) announcing the availability of the *Dleis*. The document was mailed directly to approximately 1000 interested agencies, groups, and individuals. During this period, 5 public hearings were held in Phoenix, Kingman, Tucson, Safford, and St. George, Utah.

In December 1994, the Final *LEIS* was completed. A Federal Register Notice was filed on December 30, 1994 (Vol. 59, No. 250, pp. 67716-67717) announcing the availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Arizona Wild and Scenic Rivers. Approximately 400 copies were sent directly to agencies, organizations, and individuals involved in the process. In addition, 1400 wild and scenic river information updates were sent summarizing the recommended alternative and the availability of the *FLEIS* for public comment.

Summary of Public Scoping Meeting Comments and Issues

Two general types of public comments were received during the scoping period. Some pertained to issues related to specific rivers. These comments are recorded and discussed for each of the 20 Wild and Scenic River study areas in the Rivers Appendix. In addition, several hundred comments that address statewide concerns were received during this period. The primary concerns expressed were focused on the issues of protection of remaining riparian areas in the desert environment, impacts of designation on mining, private lands, social-economics, water rights, dual designation, land activities outside of protective areas, and the evaluation and designation processes. Consult the *FLEIS*, Chapter 5; pp. 146-157.

Summary of Public Comments to Draft LEIS.

During the *DLEIS* 90 day public review period from April to June 1994, statements from 60 people at five public hearings and 116 letters were received. The most frequent comments are noted here and further discussed in the *FLEIS*, pg. 159-161:

1. Concern that BLM was making the decision, or influencing the decision by identifying a recommended alternative.
2. Comments in regard to the "eligibility" phase of the evaluation process.
3. Concern that the document made final suitability determinations for rivers.
4. Numerous comments pertaining to concerns about the acquisition of private lands.
5. Many comments expressed concerns about adverse economic impacts of river designation.
6. Public concerns about various aspects of water rights.
7. Many concerns about the need and effects of dual designation.

The transcripts of the hearings, and each of the 116 letters has been printed in the *FLEIS* (pp. 161-537). The responses prepared for the transcript statements and letters concentrate on comments that produced a change in the document, or that answers the merit of the alternative, or the adequacy of the document. Where possible and relevant, additional information has been provided in the *FLEIS*, and is noted by being printed in bold type in that document.

The only significant change between the *DLEIS* and the *FLEIS* was the change of the recommendation for Cienega Creek from nonsuitable to suitable, based on the strong public response in support of such a change. See *FLEIS Rivers Appendix - Cienega Creek* (pp.227-252) for details.

Summary of Public Comments to the Final LEIS.

In January 1995, the FLEIS was subject to a 30-day public comment period. Fifty-two letters from the public were received in response. The letters are reproduced in an accompanying document, *Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement Public Comments* (August 1995). A roster of those who responded is found in Table 6-3. The following summary captures the general responses received, grouped by alternative. Refer to specific letters in the accompanying document.

- Recommended Alternative

Four individuals and the White Mountain Conservation League stated support of the recommended alternative (Letters 7, 24, 25, 32, 47). One of the individuals also supported additional, unspecified rivers. The Wickenburg Natural Resource Conservation District "concurs with the conclusions found in the study."

- All Suitable Alternative or additional segments above those in the recommended alternative.

Six individuals and three conservation groups (American Rivers, Inc., Friends of Arizona Rivers, and Grand Canyon Chapter of the Sierra Club) supported the All Suitable Alternative, or at least more rivers than the Recommended Alternative (Letters 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 29, 33, 34, 35). One individual supported the all suitable alternative, but noted the San Pedro River should be classified "scenic" rather than "recreational." Those river areas, in which the author supported designation of the all suitable alternative, or additional river areas not recommended by BLM are tallied in Table 6-1.

TABLE 6-1
SUPPORT OF ALL SUITABLE OR SIMILAR ALTERNATIVE

<u>General Comments</u>	<u>Number of letters</u>
Supports All suitable alternative:	4
Supports Additional river areas not recommended by BLM:	
Hassayampa River	4
Virgin River*	3
San Pedro River**	2
Santa Maria**	2
Bonita Creek**	2
Turkey Creek	1
Burro Creek**	1
Francis Creek	1
Gila River (Middle)**	1
Wright Creek	1

* Supported designation of the Arizona portion of the Virgin River, rather than delay with additional study.

** Recommended designation of the entire eligible river area, rather than segments BLM has recommended.

• No Action Alternative, or no action on selected rivers

Twenty individuals, the Department of Natural Resources in the State of Utah, Graham County Board of Supervisors, Yavapai County, Mayor of Clifton, Mayor of Thatcher, Graham County Chamber of Commerce, San Pedro NRCD, Upper San Pedro Watershed Association, People for the West-Heber Chapter, Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Association, Cyprus Climax Metals, and two responses from Phelps Dodge Corporation supported the No action alternative or no action on selected rivers (Letters 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49).

Phelps Dodge provided a detailed analysis (Letter 41) of the FLEIS and requested the document be amended to reflect the concerns. The letter primarily questioned BLM's analysis that there would be essentially "no impacts" on the private lands, economics, and water quality, water quantity, sound levels, air quality or visual integrity of the inside and outside of the designated river areas. It is the opinion of the BLM that the WSRA give would BLM primary authority to manage and protect the free-flowing values of the river and outstandingly remarkable values on the federal lands within the river corridor. While it is true that the federal agencies must not assist applicants of any water resource project to cause "adverse effects" on the any designated river area's outstandingly remarkable values, no water resource projects were currently proposed or expected to be proposed in the reasonably foreseeable future. In a similar manner, though the Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for cooperating with Wild and Scenic River managers "for the purpose of eliminating or diminishing the pollution of water" of a designated wild and scenic river, the standards for water quality do not become more strict due to designation.

In addition, Cyprus Climax Metals Company supported a change in the upstream boundary of the Gila River (Middle) to avoid potential conflicts with private property and mineral development, and note that there is strong local opposition to the classification and recommendation of the Gila River (Middle).

Those river areas, in which the author supported designation of the no action alternative, or no action for specific river areas are tallied in Table 6-3.

TABLE 6-2
SUPPORT OF NO ACTION OR SIMILAR ALTERNATIVE

<u>General Comments</u>	<u>Number of letters</u>
Supports No Action Alternative	5
Supports No action Alternative on specific rivers	
Gila River (Gila Box)	22
Bonita Creek	20
Aravaipa Creek	19
Lower San Francisco	19
Swamp Springs	19
Turkey Creek	16
San Pedro	3
Bill Williams River	3
Burro Creek	3
Francis Creek	3
Santa Maria	3
Big Sandy River	2
Virgin River	1
Hassayampa River	1
Agua Fria River	1

• Concerns and comments about FLEIS, but no alternative selected.

Five letters were received in response to the FLEIS that expressed concerns or objected to the adequacy of the FLEIS.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department stated that it was difficult to judge the full nature of scope of the impacts from wild and scenic river designation by only reviewing BLM's proposal. The Director encouraged the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to take a cumulative look at potential wild and scenic rivers in Arizona (Letter 49).

The Washington County Commissioners, Utah felt the document, as the FLEIS pertained to the Virgin River, was not consistent with the Arizona Strip District Resource Management Plan, did not address issues raised at public hearings, and did not include proposed legislation for designating the Virgin River as a Potential Wild and Scenic River, as stated in the LEIS (Letter 52). See Appeals Received.

The Washington County Water Conservancy District, Utah, stated that it protested the Virgin River eligibility and suitability determinations of the BLM, because the LEIS failed to address upstream socioeconomic impacts identified in written comments supplied at the public hearing (Letter 51). See Appeals Received.

A group of residents from St. David, Arizona expressed concerns that private properties north of the recommended San Pedro river area are part of BLM's proposal, as indicated in erroneous maps in the FLEIS and River Appendix. (Letter 31).

One individual recognized there were significant values associated with the resources and on one hand supported the objectives and planned actions, because at best they appear to be objectives that can benefit the Gila Valley. The individual primarily raised other issues related to Safford District Land Tenure RMP Amendment (Letter 26).

● Summary of Federal Agency Comments to the FLEIS

The Secretary of Interior, as a requirement of the WSRA, sent copies of the FLEIS to the Chair Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Army. The 90-day comment period ended June 3, 1995 and only the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission responded. The Chair mentioned existing and planned water resources in the Agua Fria River watershed, but the referenced projects would not be affected by the designation recommended river corridor for the Agua Fria River (Letter 53).

● Appeals Received to the FLEIS

Three formal appeals were received by the BLM, and were filed with the Department of Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). All protests were specifically in regard to eligibility and/or suitability determinations of the Virgin River. The BLM, as respondent, has filed a motion with the IBLA for a dismissal of the appeals filed by the State of Utah, Washington County, and Washington County Water Conservancy District. As of February 1997, IBLA has not ruled on these appeals.

TABLE 6-3

ROSTER OF RESPONDENTS TO
ARIZONA STATEWIDE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER
FINAL LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

INDIVIDUALS

1	Mark A. Bruns	Bariboo, Wisconsin
2	Jason van Doren	Glendale, Arizona
3	Mansur Johnson	Tucson, Arizona
4	Sarah Palmer	Tucson, Arizona
5	Marjorie L. Morzingo	Graham County, Arizona
6	George A. Hamilton	Graham/Greenlee County, Arizona
7	Dan Fischer	Willcox, Arizona
8	Carol Tepper	Tucson, Arizona
9	James Kennedy	Safford, Arizona
10	Larry Clark	Graham/Greenlee County, Arizona
11	Dena M. Clark	Graham/Greenlee County, Arizona
12	<i>Brian S. Sanchez</i>	Graham/Greenlee County, Arizona
13	<i>T.A. Burke</i>	Graham County, Arizona
14	James H. Vedders	Graham County, Arizona
15	William L. Schultheis	Graham County, Arizona
16	<i>E. Schuere</i>	Graham/Greenlee County, Arizona
17	<i>Farber S. Irion</i>	Graham/Greenlee County, Arizona
18	<i>Carol J. Irion</i>	Graham County, Arizona
19	Joseph Dugan	Graham County, Arizona
20	Lori R. Dugan	Graham County, Arizona
21	Maxine M. Hayes	Yarnell, Arizona
22	Bart J. Patterson for Clayton Jacobson	Phoenix, Arizona
23	Fred/Alta Towne	Kirkland, Arizona
24	Jerry Van Gasse	Tempe, Arizona
25	Mark Prein/Lori Morse	Show Low, Arizona
26	Josefina Bienes Melendrez	Avondale, Arizona
27	Barbara L. Hustin	Safford, Arizona
28	Lee J. Clark	Safford, Arizona
29	John Pamperin	Phoenix, Arizona
30	Steve Saway	Fort Huachuca, Arizona

GROUPS, ORGANZATIONS AND CORPORATIONS

31	Judith M. Mikeal et al.	St. David, Arizona Residents
32	Dorothy Reed-Inman	White Mountain Conservation League
33	Timothy J. Flood	Friends of Arizona Rivers
34	Don Steuter	Conservation Chair
35	Pamela W. Hyde	Conservation Associate
36	Peter Pfeifer	Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter
37	Sylvia Allen	American Rivers-Southwest Regional Office
38	Roger G. Tabar	Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Association
39	J. A. Sturgess	People for the West-Heber Chapter
40	Charles S. Eady	Upper San Pedro Watershed Management Assn.
41	Jerry Haggard	Attorney
		Cyprus Climax Metals Company
		Phelps Dodge Corporation
		Phelps Dodge Corporation

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

42	David McCullar	Mayor	Town of Clifton, Arizona
43	Larry Innes et al.	Mayor	Town of Thatcher, Arizona
44	Delbert Householder et al.	Chairman	Graham County Board of Supervisors
45	Tim Walters	President	Graham County Chamber of Commerce
46	M. Randolph Schurr	Deputy County Attorney	Yavapai County
47	Garth Brown	Chairman	Wickenburg Natural Resource Conservation Dist.
48	Gail Getzwiller	Chairman	San Pedro Natural Resource Conservation Dist.
49	Duane L. Shroufe	Director	Arizona Game & Fish Department
50	Ted Stewart	Executive Director	State of Utah, Department of Natural Resources
51	Ronald W. Thompson	District Manager	Washington County Water Conservancy District
52	Gayle M. Aldred et al.	Chairman	Washington County Commission

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (MANDATORY REVIEW PERIOD)

53	Elizabeth A. Moler	Chair	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
n/a	No response	Secretary	Department of the Army
n/a	No response	Secretary	Department of Agriculture

Note: Names for which signatures were illegible are identified in italics. Refer to specific letters in the accompanying document, Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic River Final Legislative Environmental Impact Statement Public Review Comments (August 1995).

Public Law 105- 105th Congress

An Act

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to designate portions of 13 river areas, containing some 25 segments, in Arizona as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE--ARIZONA BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT OF 1997

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE

This title may be cited as the "Arizona Bureau of Land Management Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1997."

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)), as amended, is further amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end thereof:

"(151) PARIA RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 28.0-mile segment from the Arizona-Utah boundary within Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness to the boundary of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

"(152) BIG SANDY RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 9.2-mile segment from the gaging station at Signal Townsite to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdrawal at Alamo Lake; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

"(153) BURRO CREEK, ARIZONA.---Four separated segments, totalling 24.2 miles, each to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river:

- (A) The 2.2-mile segment from the Baca Float-public land boundary north of Scratch Canyon to the mouth of Hellzapoppin' Canyon; and
- (B) The 8.5-mile segment within Upper Burro Creek Wilderness; and
- (C) The 9.0-mile segment from Six Mile Crossing to U.S. Highway 93; and
- (D) The 4.5-mile segment from Andy's Hole to the public-private land boundary in Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 12 West.

"(154) BILL WILLIAMS RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 19.0-mile segment from the Alamo Dam Withdrawal to the western boundary of the Swansea Wilderness; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

- (A) The 8.2-mile segment from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Withdrawal at Alamo Dam to the western boundary of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness, as a wild river; and
- (B) The 5.0-mile segment from the western boundary of the Rawhide Mountains Wilderness to the eastern boundary of the Swansea Wilderness, as a scenic river; and
- (C) The 5.8-mile segment within the Swansea Wilderness, as a wild river.

"(155) SANTA MARIA RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 17.6-mile segment from the eastern boundary of the Arrastra Mountain Wilderness to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Withdrawal at Alamo Lake; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

"(156) AGUA FRIA RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 22.4-mile segment from Sycamore Creek to Larry Canyon; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

- (A) The 7.7-mile segment from Sycamore Creek to Horseshoe Ranch, as a scenic river; and
- (B) The 10.3-mile segment from Horseshoe Ranch to the Arizona Department of Transportation pump house, as a wild river; and
- (C) The 4.4-mile segment from the Arizona Department of Transportation pump house to Larry Canyon, as a scenic river.

"(157) GILA RIVER (MIDDLE), ARIZONA.---The 7.5-mile segment from the confluence of Dripping Springs Wash to the public-private land boundary in the center of Section 7, Township 5 South, Range 16 East; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river.

"(158) ARAVAIPA CREEK, ARIZONA.---The 10.0-mile segment within Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a wild river.

"(159) BONITA CREEK, ARIZONA.---The 8.1-mile segment from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation-Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area boundary to the Lee Trail Road; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river.

"(160) LOWER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER, ARIZONA.---The 6.4-mile segment from the 230kv power transmission line right-of-way in Section 12, Township 5 South, Range 29 East to the confluence with the Gila River; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river.

"(161) GILA RIVER (GILA BOX), ARIZONA.---The 26.6-mile segment from the public land boundary in Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 30 East to the western boundary of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classes:

(A) The 6.9-mile segment from Lots 9 and 10, Section 3, Township 6 South, Range 30 East to Section 26 SW¼, Township 5 South, Range 29 East, as a recreational river; and

(B) The 15.2-mile segment from Section 26 SW¼, Township 5 South, Range 29 East to Section 22 NW¼, Township 6 South, Range 28 East, as a scenic river; and

(C) The 4.5-mile segment from Section 22 NW¼, Township 6 South, Range 28 East to the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area boundary, as a recreational river.

"(162) CIENEGA CREEK, ARIZONA.---The two separated segments and two tributaries, totalling 10.5-miles; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a scenic river:

(A) The 3.0-mile segment from the section line between Sections 15 and 22, Township 19 South, Range 17 East to the township line between Townships 18 South and 19 South, Range 17 East and the 1.0-mile segment of Empire Gulch; and

(B) The 5.5-mile segment from section line between Sections 23 and 26, Township 18 South, Range 17 East to the center of Section 6, Township 18 South, Range 18 East and the 1.0-mile segment of Mattie Canyon.

"(163) SAN PEDRO RIVER, ARIZONA.---The two separated segments, totalling 44.0-miles, from the United States-Mexico International boundary to the northern most boundary of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior, as a recreational river:

(A) The 3.0-mile segment from the United States-Mexico International boundary to the northern boundary of southern block of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area; and

(B) The 41.0-mile segment within the northern block of the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area."

SEC. 3: WILD AND SCENIC RIVER STUDIES

Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)), as amended, is further amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end thereof:

(a) "(136) VIRGIN RIVER, UTAH, ARIZONA, AND NEVADA.--The segment and major tributaries with substantial federal ownership from its headwaters in Utah through the Arizona suitable segment to the confluence with the Colorado River at Lake Mead in Nevada; by the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture."

Section 5(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(b)), as amended, is further amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end thereof:

(b) "(13) The study and a designation recommendation of the Virgin River, in Utah, Arizona, and Nevada, shall be completed and the report thereon submitted not later than the end of the third full fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph."

SEC. 4: WATER RIGHTS

(a) The Secretary and all other officers of the United States shall take steps necessary to protect the rights reserved by Section 13 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including filing by the Secretary of a claim for the quantification of such rights in any present or future appropriate stream adjudication in the courts of the State of Arizona in which the United States is or may be joined and which is conducted in accordance with the McCarren Amendment (43 U.S.C. 666).

(b) Nothing in this title shall be construed as a relinquishment or reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State of Arizona on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 5: PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN RIVER SEGMENTS

(a) Nothing in this title or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act shall be construed to affect the Secretary of Army's operation and management of Alamo Dam for purposes authorized by Public Land Order 492 or otherwise authorized prior to the date of this Act.

(b) In those river segments where designation under this Act overlies either National Wilderness or National Conservation Area designation, the more restrictive provisions will apply.

(c) Maps depicting locations of river segments designated by the passage of this Act, are found in the "Final Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Report/Record of Decision (February 1997)" correcting certain map errors in "Arizona Statewide Wild and Scenic Rivers Legislative Environmental Impact Statement" and "Rivers Appendix (December 1994)".

SEC. 6: AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS

(a) For rivers designated by this Act, there are to be authorized such sums authorized to the Bureau of Land Management as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) For the Virgin River Wild and Scenic River study authorized in Section 3 of this Act, there is authorized to be appropriated up to \$300,000 to the Secretary of the Interior.

Section-By-Section Analysis

SECTION 1. Short Title

This section provides the short title by which the bill, if passed, would be cited.

SECTION 2. Designation of Wild and Scenic Rivers in Arizona

This section adds 13 rivers in 25 segments in Arizona to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by amending Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)). **Eleven segments, totaling 113.3 miles, are designated as wild, six segments, totaling 42.8 miles, are designated as scenic, and eight segments, totaling 77.4 miles, are designated as recreational.** All of these segments would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

SECTION 3. Interagency and Interstate Virgin River Wild and Scenic River Study

This section would authorize a wild and scenic river study by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture for the Virgin River and its major tributaries by amending Sections 5(a) and (b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a) and (b)). The study segment would be located from approximately the headwaters of the Virgin River in Utah to the confluence with the Colorado River at Lake Mead located in Nevada. The Secretaries must complete the study and submit to Congress a report not later than three fiscal years after the date of authorization of the study.

SECTION 4. Water Rights

This section directs the Secretary of the Interior to protect the rights reserved by Section 13 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including any filing by the Secretary of claims of such rights, present or future adjudications, in the courts of the State of Arizona in accordance with existing law.

In addition, this section would prohibit any relinquishment or reduction of any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State of Arizona on or before the date of enactment of this Act. This language is identical to that used in the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-628).

SECTION 5. Provisions Applicable to Certain River Segments

This section ensures the Secretary of Army is not constrained in the operation and management of Alamo Dam or uses authorized prior to the date of this bill.

Also, for those designated river segments which overlap designated Wilderness or National Conservation Areas, the more restrictive provisions will apply.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Appropriations for Management and Virgin River Study

This section authorizes appropriations for designated river segments and for the Virgin River Wild and Scenic River study authorized by Section 3 of this bill.

ERRATA

ARIZONA STATEWIDE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER FINAL LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (December 1994)

The following errors have been discovered in the above document:

- Pg. xiv: Chart: Outstandingly remarkable values for Aravaipa Creek should have included "scenic" and "hydrologic."
- Pg. 9; Chart 1-1: The characteristics which support designation of Cienega Creek is the need for additional protection required for the outstandingly remarkable fish and wildlife habitat values.
- Pg. 12: Table 1-1: Outstandingly remarkable values for Aravaipa Creek should have included "scenic."
- Pg. 33; Table 2-AS1 The total miles indicated for Gila Box should read "25.5." The total miles indicated for Middle Gila should read "24.5."
- Pg. 52; Table 3-5: There is not a well in the Turkey Creek river area.
- Pg. 54; Table 3-6: Visitor Use for Turkey Creek should have been estimated at 4,800 visitor days.
- pg. 58: Table 3-8: Salt cedar is not considered a component of the riparian vegetation in Aravaipa Creek, and should not have been indicated.
- pg. 64; Table 3-11: Only the main canyon bottom of Aravaipa Creek is closed to livestock grazing. A portion of Turkey Creek is grazed.
- pg. 71; Table 4-RA1: Salt cedar removal is not a planned action in Aravaipa Creek.
- Pg. 73; 1st paragraph: There are only 560 acres of the Turkey Creek study area in the Turkey Creek Area of Critical Area of Environmental Concern.
- pg. 75; Table 4-RA2, Salt cedar removal is not a planned action in Aravaipa
pg. 79; Table 4-RA4, "
pg. 95; Table 4-AS1, "
pg. 97; Table 4-AS2, "
pg. 101; Table 4-AS4. "
- pg. 111; Table 4-AST1: Visitor Use for Turkey Creek should have been estimated at 4,800 visitor days.
- pg. 116; Table 4-LP2: Wood cutting is prohibited in 730 acres of Turkey
pg. 123; Table 4-LP2: Creek.
- pg. 132; Table 4-LPT1: Visitor Use for Turkey Creek should have been estimated at 4,800 visitor days.
- pg. 146; 1st Column: In the section on "Summary of Public Scoping Meetings" the reference to "Volume 2" should have read "Rivers Appendix."

Compiled: 8/21/95

